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*Records of the Seventy-seventh
(East Middlesex)*

Henry Herriott Woolright

ANNEX

RECORDS OF THE 77th REGIMENT.

ALDERSHOT :
PRINTED BY GALE & POLDEN, LTD., WELLINGTON WORKS.

1907.

629-L.



**FIELD-MARSHAL H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE,
K.G., G.C.B., ETC.**

**COLONEL-IN-CHIEF,
THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN (MIDDLESEX REGIMENT).
1898—1904.**

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RECORDS

OF THE

SEVENTY-SEVENTH

8549 (EAST MIDDLESEX),

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN

REGIMENT OF FOOT,

NOW THE

SECOND BATTALION

THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN

(MIDDLESEX REGIMENT),

Compiled from Official and other sources,

BY

MAJOR H. H. WOOLLRIGHT,

LATE D.C.O. (MIDDLESEX REGIMENT).

London :

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P R E F A C E.

THE greater portion of this short account of the services of the Seventy-seventh has been taken from the official records of the Regiment, of which the chapters describing the Crimean and South African Campaigns have been given in full, except some unimportant returns, etc., which have been omitted from the former.

Considerable additions, however, have been made to the description of the earlier portion of the Regiment's history given in the official records, and amongst other works, Wilk's "History of Mysore," Malleeson's "Ser-ingapatam," Wilson's "Madras Army" (for the early Indian Campaigns), Robinson's "Life of Sir Thomas Picton," Grattan's Reminiscences, and Colonel Napier's History (for the Peninsular period), have been drawn upon to give a fuller account of the Regiment's services between 1790 and 1814.

It is hoped, therefore, that these pages will be found to contain a fairly complete account of the share taken by the Seventy-seventh in the different campaigns in which it has served since its formation in 1787.

10th July, 1907.

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CHAPTER II.

1807—1811.

The Regiment quartered at Chatham and augmented by volunteers from the Militia—Moves to Lincoln—To Winchester—Employed in Lord Chatham's expedition to the Scheldt—Lands in the Island of Walcheren—Capture of Flushing—

The formation of the Seventy-seventh Regiment **1787.** was ordered by a letter of service issued on the 12th October, 1787, to *Colonel James Marsh, of the Forty-third, who had been selected for the command of the new regiment. The establishment was fixed at 10 service companies of four officers, three sergeants, two drummers, and seventy-five rank and file each; and a recruiting company of four officers, four drummers, and thirty-five rank and file. The regimental staff officers were an adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon, and two surgeon's mates. At this time the colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major were captains of companies. The total establishment of officers was thus forty-nine, of which twenty (the major, four captains, and fifteen subalterns) were to be nominated by the East India Company, and not appointed till after the regiment's arrival in India.

The following were gazetted to the regiment before the end of 1787:—

Colonel James Marsh.
 Lieutenant-Colonel James Balfour.
 Captain Bulstrode Whitelocke.
 Captain James Dunlop.
 Captain John Montresor.
 Captain Lord Charles Somerset.
 Captain Lieutenant Wm. Fred. Spry.
 Lieutenant Lauchlan M'Quarrie.
 Lieutenant Hugh Trevor.
 Lieutenant Joseph Owen.

* Colonel Marsh served for upwards of twenty years with the 46th Regiment (of which he was Adjutant from 1755 to 1757), before being appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 43rd in August, 1776. He served with the latter in the American War, and was present at the action on Rhode Island in 1778, when "the spirited exertions of the 43rd under Colonel Marsh," were mentioned by the general commanding in his despatch. In 1786, when the 43rd were at Windsor, he was highly complimented by the King on the condition of his regiment. He was promoted Major-General in 1796, and General in 1803. He died in 1804.

Lieutenant Thomas Weston.
Lieutenant L. H. Dalrymple.
Lieutenant Archibald Campbell.
Lieutenant Hon. G. Cochrane.
Lieutenant John Shaw.
Lieutenant W. Atwood Oliver.
Lieutenant St. John Fancourt.
Lieutenant Charles Erskine.
Ensign James Blackwell.
Ensign John Taite.
Ensign R. B. Campbell.
Ensign Archibald Campbell.
Ensign John A. Dick.
Chaplain James Dalton.
Adjutant Charles Erskine.
Quartermaster Charles Stewart.
Surgeon Colin Anderson.

The uniform of the regiment on its formation was scarlet, with facings of a light pale yellow or lemon-colour. The epaulettes of the officers were of silver and their lapels, skirt pockets, etc., plain without lace.

Recruits for the regiment were raised generally in the three kingdoms,* and were not obtained without considerable difficulty, military service being at that time exceedingly unpopular. The regiment, however, was sufficiently complete to proceed on foreign service early in 1788. It was first embodied at Dover, under Colonel Marsh, **1788.** who presented it with its first colours, and after a short stay there embarked in the Downs for India on the 27th March, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop. After a voyage of more than four months

* The regiment had no territorial title till 1807, when, on returning home from India it became the East Middlesex Regiment.

it landed at Bombay on the 4th August, and took up its quarters there.

Soon after the regiment's arrival at Bombay the following officers, who had been nominated by the East India Company, were appointed to complete the establishment:—

Major Marlborough Parsons Stirling.

Captain Eccles Smith.

Captain Robert Duncanson.

Captain Charles Gray.

Lieutenant Creighton Macrae.

Lieutenant John Campbell.

Lieutenant George Collier.

Lieutenant William Nelson.

Lieutenant Charles T. Grant.

Lieutenant John Macleod.

Lieutenant Roger Bridgewater.

Lieutenant John M. Cooper.

Lieutenant John Lawrence.

Lieutenant Donald Mackenzie.

Lieutenant Edmund Shuttleworth.

Lieutenant William Pringle.

Lieutenant Phillip Anstruther.

Ensign Charles Stewart.

Ensign Stephen Gillman.

Ensign Alexander Gray.

Ensign Francis Mackay.

Ensign William Hensman.

Ensign William Whitla.

Ensign John Robins.

For two years the regiment remained quartered at Bombay. Peace for the time prevailed in India, but **1790.** in 1790 there came a renewal of the war with Tippoo Sultan, Rajah of Mysore, a cruel and

ferocious tyrant, and one of the most formidable enemies encountered by England in the East. The 77th formed part of the force despatched from Bombay in November, under Major-General Robert Abercromby, the Governor, to co-operate with the Madras army in an attack on the Rajah's possessions in Malabar. They landed at Tellicherry, and on the 14th December marched against Cannanore, a place which, after being held for many years by the Portuguese, and after them by the Dutch, was now in the possession of a lady known as the Bibi of Cannanore, a staunch ally of Tippoo. Not much resistance was met with. This enemy was soon dislodged with loss from a strong position barring the British advance, and the outlying forts, Avary and Carly, captured. Fort Angelo and the town fell on the 16th, and the following day the Bibi surrendered.

By the capture of Cannanore the British became masters of all Malabar. The Hindoo Nairs welcomed them as deliverers from Tippoo's tyranny, but the Mahomedan population—the Moplahs—remained hostile, and continued to adhere to their co-religionist, the Sultan.

The following year the Governor-General of
1791. India (Lord Cornwallis) took the field in person at the head of the Grand Army destined to advance against Tippoo's capital, Seringapatam, from Bangalore, while General Abercromby, with the Bombay army, attacked it from the west. The latter, which now comprised the 77th, three other European regiments, five battalions of Sepoys, and some artillery, left Cannanore in February, and were conveyed by water as far as Iliacore, within 26 miles of the Poodicherram Ghaut. In the ascent of the Ghaut great difficulties had to be overcome, and in many places the guns had to be dismounted and hauled up precipices by ropes and tackle. Fortunately no enemy disputed the passage and the Coorgs gave great assistance, otherwise the

advance of the army by this route would have been impossible. The Mysore plateau was at length reached, and, pressing on, General Abercromby occupied Periapatam, 44 miles to the westward of Seringapatam, the enemy evacuating the place at his approach. Here bad news was received of the Madras army, which through scarcity of provisions and the breakdown of its transport had been compelled to retire from before Seringapatam almost immediately after its arrival there. At the same time, orders came for General Abercromby to return to the Malabar Coast. He was undoubtedly placed in a critical position by Lord Cornwallis's retreat, but his retirement from Periapatam seems to have been somewhat precipitate. A large portion of the baggage fell into the hands of the enemy, and through an error on the part of the medical authorities the same fate befell an officer and seventeen men in hospital. The force, having buried or destroyed all its artillery, retraced its steps to the coast without further molestation from the enemy, but the abandonment of the remaining tents and baggage through the loss of transport animals caused much sickness, and there were few officers or men in this expedition who did not suffer in after years from the hardships suffered in the retreat.

On reaching the coast the 77th took up its quarters on Darmapatnam Island, near Tellicherry, and remained cantoned there during the remainder of the monsoon. On the 20th November it marched, under the command of Captain Bulstrode Whitelocke, to Cannanore, when the Bombay army was again concentrated for a fresh campaign. Ample supplies had been collected, many being obtained from Palghaut, a strong fort of Tippoo's, near Coimbatore, recently captured, and now used as a supply depôt.

Seringapatam was again the objective, and, re-ascending the Poodicherram Ghaut, General Abercromby made his first

march from the head of this pass towards Mysore
1792. on the 22nd January, 1792. On the 11th February, he crossed the River Cavery, and on the 16th joined the Grand Army, under Lord Cornwallis, before Seringapatam. Three days later the Bombay army crossed to the south side of the river to assist in the attack on the western angle of the fortress, and in this exposed position, separated by the Cavery from the main army, successfully repulsed a severe attack made by the Mysoreans on the 22nd.

The siege operations were vigorously carried on, and Lord Cornwallis calculated on a breach in the walls being practicable for assault on the 1st March. Tippoo, however, saw the futility of further resistance, and accepting the terms offered him signed the preliminary articles of peace on the 24th February. The principal conditions were the cession of half his domains, including Calicut, Coorg, and Dindigul, the payment of three crores and three lacs of rupees, and the release of all prisoners. The news of the peace was received with grief and almost with indignation by the British soldiers, who had long cherished the hope of liberating with their own hands those of their comrades who had survived the horrors of Tippoo's dungeons.

Hostilities being terminated, the 77th returned to Malabar, and arrived on the 13th April at Cannanore, where they embarked for Bombay, having lost 281 men killed in action, captured by the enemy, or dead from hardships and fatigue in the recent campaigns.

The regiment arrived at Bombay on the 19th April and remained there the next two and a half years, during which time the effects of the preceding campaigns were further severely felt in the loss of 321 men. Bombay in those days was a small place, not extending beyond the walls of the fort, and the close and confined quarters the regiment must

have occupied—perhaps in the Castle—no doubt had much to do with this great mortality.

On the 20th October, 1794, the 77th again
1794. embarked for the Malabar Coast, and after a voyage of ten days landed at Calicut, where it remained in cantonments for several months.

The next outbreak of hostilities in Southern India was the result of events following the recent Revolution in France. The people of Holland, becoming imbued with revolutionary principles, had declared themselves a Republic, and joined the French in war against Great Britain. This news reached India in June, 1795, and expedi-
1795. tions were forthwith planned against the few remaining Dutch possessions there. The 77th formed part of that against Cochin, the principal Dutch settlement on the Malabar Coast, and arrived before it on the 27th August. The place had been for some time besieged by a force under Major Petrie, and only made a brief resistance before capitulating.

The more important Dutch possessions in Ceylon were next selected for attack. The 77th had returned to Calicut in November, but the following month it marched back to Cochin, and embarked there, on the 18th January,
1796. 1796, in this new expedition. The force, which was commanded by Colonel Stuart, of the 72nd, landed on the west coast of Ceylon, and on the 4th February concentrated at Negombo, preparatory to advancing on Colombo, 20 miles to the south. The advanced guard, consisting of the 77th and three native battalions, arrived within four miles of Colombo on the 8th, and were joined by the main body the following day.

Some resistance was met with when the force crossed the Kelani River on the 12th, but the enemy, consisting of some Dutch troops and Malays, was soon driven back, and the

town of Colombo occupied the same evening. On the 15th the fort surrendered, and by the terms of the capitulation all the Dutch possessions in the island passed into the hands of the British. The Dutch garrison was over 3,000 strong, and 360 guns were found in the fort. The prize money was valued at £301,000.

The 77th remained in Colombo till the 22nd March, and then embarked for Calicut, where it was stationed till the following August, when it again marched to Cochin.

In April, 1797, four companies, under Major **1797.** W. F. Spry, embarked for Tellicherry to join an expedition, under Lieut.-Colonel James Dunlop, of the 77th, against the Rajah of Cotiote. The manner in which they conducted themselves is recorded in the Detachment Orders by Major Lauchlan M'Quarrie at Camp Cotiangunj on the 13th May, in which he tendered his "warmest and best thanks to all ranks for their gallantry, steadiness, zeal, and obedience to orders, and the spirit in which they had overcome all difficulties and hardships in such an arduous campaign as they had lately been engaged upon." At the same time, the "conspicuous intrepidity, coolness, and gallantry" with which a party under Lieutenant Lawrence, 77th Regiment, had dislodged a party of the enemy from a house near the Canote River, was highly commended. On the termination of this expedition the detachment rejoined headquarters at Cochin, where the regiment remained throughout the following year.

In 1799 the intrigues of Tippoo Sultan with **1799.** the French, who had occupied Egypt with a force under Buonaparte and were planning an attack on the British possessions in India, brought about another war with Mysore. The Bombay Government, as in the previous war, furnished a contingent to co-operate from Malabar with the main army, under General (afterwards Lord)

Harris, assembled at Vellore. This contingent assembled at Cannanore under Major-General Stewart, and consisted of one European and two native infantry brigades, with some artillery and sappers. The 77th, 693 strong, under Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop, arrived at Cannanore on the 14th January, and with the Bombay European Regiment and the flank companies of the 75th Highlanders formed the Centre Brigade. Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop was appointed to the command of this brigade, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel John Montresor (senior major) of the 77th, to that of the Right Brigade, the command of the regiment devolving on Major Spry. The force, 6,400 strong, marched from Cannanore for Coorg by the Poodicherram Ghaut on the 21st February, and on the 25th reached the top of the pass, where the 77th encamped to await the arrival of stores and provisions and protect them on their way up. On the 1st March it advanced to Seedapore, on the frontiers of Coorg and Mysore (about 90 miles from Cannanore and 60 from Seringapatam), and encamped there with the main body.

General Stewart had been ordered to take up a defensive position on the Coorg frontier and await orders, but the thickly wooded nature of the country compelled him to disperse his troops in several detachments, affording each other mutual support as far as possible. Lieut.-Colonel Montresor, with the Right Brigade, consisting of three battalions of Bombay sepoys, occupied the height of Seedaseer, 11 miles in advance, which was of the utmost importance, being the only point from which signalling communication could be maintained with General Harris, then near Bangalore. On the 6th March this advanced post was furiously assailed by 12,000 Mysoreans, led by Tippoo in person, who had been enabled by the denseness of the surrounding jungle to approach almost unobserved. General Stewart, on receiving intelligence of the attack, immediately marched

with the 77th and the flank companies of the 75th, and reached the scene of action at half-past two. The enemy had penetrated to the rear of the British position, and by occupying the main road to Seedaseer had completely surrounded Colonel Montresor's sepoy, who, after several hours' fighting, were exhausted with fatigue and almost at the end of their ammunition. However, the vigorous onslaught of the 75th and 77th quickly cleared the Seedaseer road, and in half-an-hour they had fought their way through to Colonel Montresor, the enemy falling back through the woods before them. At twenty minutes past three the Mysoreans retreated in all directions and left the British troops in possession of the field after an engagement lasting nearly six hours. Both British and native troops received great credit for their behaviour in this action. Their losses amounted to not more than 143 killed and wounded—the 77th lost a sergeant, drummer, and twelve men—while the number of Mysoreans killed and wounded came to nearly 1,500.

General Stewart remained in the neighbourhood of Seedapore till the 7th April, when he marched for Seringapatam, and a week later joined General Harris's army, engaged in the siege of that fortress.

The fortress of Seringapatam is situated at the western end of an island, about three miles in length and one in breadth, formed by two arms of the Cavery River. The northern and south-western faces are built on the shore of the island and the north-west bastion in the angle opposite to where the two branches of the river divide. The river was very low at this season of the year, and formed but a slight obstacle to the besieging army.

The point selected for attack was the northern end of the south-west face, and the Madras army had taken up its position opposite this side of the fortress. The Bombay

army crossed to the north side of the river, where batteries were to be erected to enfilade the south-west face of the fort.

These batteries opened fire on the 20th, and told with such severe effect on the enemy that a vigorous sortie was made by the garrison in the early hours of the 22nd, with the intention of destroying them. A demonstration was made against the rear of the Bombay army at 2 a.m., and immediately afterwards the outposts and advanced works were attacked by 6,000 infantry, led by the French contingent in Tippoo's service. The enemy—especially the French—fought with great spirit, and the engagement, in which two companies of the 77th, under Lieutenant Lawrence, distinguished themselves, lasted several hours. The Mysoreans were, however, at length repulsed with a loss of 700 men, many of the French being bayoneted inside the British works.

In the course of the next few days the whole of the enemy's outworks south of the river were captured, and on the 28th and 29th batteries were erected 360 yards from the western curtain to play on the north-west bastion and open a breach 60 yards to the south of it.

On the evening of the 3rd May the breach appeared nearly practicable, and it was determined to assault the place the following day, orders being given for the necessary dispositions to be made during the night and those troops of the Bombay army detailed to take part in the assault brought over to the south side of the Cavery.

Major-General David Baird, a veteran of the Indian wars, who had for some years been a captive in the hands of Tippoo, was to command the force detailed for the assault, which was told off into right and left columns. The latter was under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Dunlop, 77th Regiment, and consisted of the six European flank com-

panies with the Bombay army—*i.e.*, those of H.M.'s 75th and 77th, and the Bombay Regiment; the whole of H.M.'s 12th and 33rd Regiments; ten Bengal sepoy flank companies; and fifty artillerymen. This column was to move left in front, and, after capturing the large cavalier behind the breach, to wheel to its left and proceed along the northern rampart till it joined hands with the right column, under Colonel Sherbrooke, directed to move in similar manner along the southern ramparts. The two columns were to advance on the breach simultaneously if space admitted, otherwise the left was to lead. Each was to be preceded by a forlorn hope of a sergeant and twelve volunteers supported by a subaltern and twenty-five men. The leading flank companies were provided with hand hatchets and ordered to use the bayonet principally, and only fire in case of absolute necessity.

Contrary to usual custom, General Harris ordered the assault to be made at 1 p.m. "From knowledge of the customs of the natives of India," he judged "that the garrison would not be apprehensive of an assault or prepared to make that obstinate resistance which at any other time might be expected to an attack." Accordingly the bombardment was resumed in the morning, and all through the forenoon the guns roared across the Cavery as the British battered the breach and raked the south-west face of the fort from end to end. The infantry who were to make the assault meanwhile awaited, crowded in the trenches, the moment that was to decide the fate of Seringapatam. They had an arduous task before them, as is apparent to anyone who takes his stand near the two half-buried guns that to-day mark where the advanced parallel was in 1799, and gazes at the ramparts opposite across the river. It is true that the ditch is only about seven feet deep, and that the north-west bastion is too small to have afforded a very effective flank defence,

but the breach must have been very steep and difficult to surmount, and immediately in rear of where it was is a lofty cavalier commanding all the works at this angle of the fortress, and separated from the outer rampart by a deep ditch. The existence of this ditch was unknown to the besiegers at the time, and this obstacle might have caused the failure of the assault if the defence had been more ably conducted.

“The state of silent and awful expectation in the trenches,” says Colonel Wilks, “as the expected hour approached may be more easily imagined than described.” “Within a few minutes of one, General Baird sent round to the corps composing the assault to be ready at an instant’s warning, and when the precise moment had arrived, he ascended the parapet in the trench in full view of both armies, a military figure suited to such an occasion, and with an energy and animation not to be surpassed, drawing his sword, and addressing the soldiers in a tone which thrilled along the trenches, he desired them to follow him and show themselves worthy of the name of British soldiers.”*

The stormers immediately sprang out of the trenches and dashed across the wide and rocky river bed towards the breach. In spite of the heavy pounding of the morning, the enemy received them with a very heavy musketry and artillery fire, and when Lieutenant Lawrence, commanding the support of the forlorn hope, reached the top of the glacis he found that the forlorn hope “had formed and commenced to fire instead of rushing in.” Lawrence, who had already been wounded by a shot in the left arm, “ran from right to left hurrahing them on, and was at last compelled to run through the files to the front calling out, ‘Now is the time

* History of Mysore.

for the breach.'** On this they leapt into the ditch, followed by the support, and climbed up the steep slope in front of them. In the breach they were met by a body of Mysoreans, who gallantly charged down, sword in hand, to meet them. A severe hand-to-hand fight ensued, and Colonel Dunlop, as he led up his grenadiers and light infantry, had a desperate encounter with one of Tippoo's sirdars, who met him scimitar in hand. Parrying a blow with his sabre, he slashed open his adversary's breast, and mortally wounded him, but the man with his remaining strength responded with a cut that nearly hewed off Dunlop's head, and the Colonel, on reaching the summit of the breach, fell from loss of blood.

In spite of the resistance they encountered, only six minutes elapsed from the moment that they advanced from their trenches before the stormers reached the summit of the breach and planted the British colours thereon in signal of their success. A formidable obstacle, hitherto unsuspected, now presented itself. In the order for the assault the left column had been directed to occupy the cavalier behind the breach before moving along the northern rampart. This cavalier, however, was now found to be part of an inner line of ramparts and separated from the outer line by a deep and apparently impassable ditch. On seeing this General Baird ordered the leading companies of the left column to wheel to the left and clear the outer north rampart, while the regiments in support found a means of crossing the ditch.

Tippoo himself now appeared on the scene to oppose the entrance of the hated British into his capital. He had refused to listen to the warnings of his officers that an attack was imminent, and had "allowed one of his youthful flatterers to summon the men from their positions on the

* Life of Sir Henry Lawrence.

ramparts to receive their pay at mid-day."* He himself was seated at his mid-day meal when the assault commenced. On the news being brought to him he hastened to the north rampart with a glittering band of chiefs and nobles to oppose the further advance of the British, and the flankers of the 75th and 77th and their comrades of the Bombay Regiment met with a most determined resistance.

All their officers had now been killed or disabled, and the enemy was sheltered by a succession of well-built traverses on the outer wall and assisted by a heavy, flanking fire from the inner rampart. At length, however, the British succeeded in obtaining access to the latter. H.M. 12th Regiment, who followed the Bombay flankers, had been able to find a narrow platform crossing the ditch, and their light company, gaining the inner rampart and driving the enemy upon it before them, opened a heavy fire on the Mysoreans opposing the British on the outer wall.

The latter were now enabled to make better headway, and, under Captain Lambton, General Baird's Brigade Major, who had assumed the command, steadily drove the enemy before them into the north-east corner of the fortress. Here the surviving Mysoreans were attacked in rear by Colonel Sherbrooke's column, and after a great slaughter among them utterly routed. Tippoo, who had retired from the north rampart some time before, had been shot by a man of the 12th, on his way into the inner fort, whither he was retiring in hopes of holding it after the loss of the outer works.

All resistance on the part of the enemy was now at an end, and the British were at length masters of Seringapatam.

Their share in the achievement cost the 77th the loss of

* Colonel Malleon's "Seringapatam."

three officers and sixty men killed and wounded.* Captain Owen had been killed and Colonel Dunlop and Lieutenant Lawrence severely wounded.

The latter officer was the only survivor of the four subalterns who had volunteered to cover the forlorn hope. Having been already wounded on his way up to the counter-scarp, he received a second wound while ascending the breach, and, fainting from loss of blood, was dragged to one side and left lying there, exposed to the full glare of the mid-day sun. Some hours later he was found by a 77th man who happened to pass that way and recognised the yellow facings of his regiment on what he thought was a dead officer. Finding Lawrence still living, the man by a great effort—for Lawrence was over six feet in height and bulky in proportion—picked him up and staggered off to camp, swearing “he would not do as much for any other man of them.”† This unknown soldier thus preserved the life of the man who was to be the father of those two famous brothers—Sir Henry and Lord Lawrence—destined to render such splendid service to England in later days.

After the reduction of Seringapatam the 77th returned to the Malabar Coast, and on the 25th May went into cantonments at Tellicherry, where it remained till again called upon to take the field. The British did not succeed in taking possession of the various territories of the late Sultan Tippoo without considerable opposition, and in September it was necessary to send a force against the commandant at Jumaulabad, in South Canara, who had refused to yield up the fort there. The 77th, under Major Spry, marched to Mangalore on the 5th

* The total loss of Colonel Dunlop's column was 174 (7 per cent.) killed and wounded. The 77th flank companies had been completed to 100 men each, and were commanded by Captains Joseph Owen and John Shawa.

† Life of Sir Henry Lawrence.

September to take part in this expedition. It arrived there on the 17th, and a few days later the flank companies, with those of the 75th, under the command of Major Spry, attacked and carried the fort.

After this service the regiment embarked, on the 26th October at Mangalore, in small boats for conveyance to Calicut and Cochin. A gale of wind, however, that sprung up during the voyage down the coast having scattered the boats, they were compelled to put in for shelter at various ports, and the regiment, when finally re-united, went into cantonments at Cannanore.

Early in the year 1800 the regiment was transferred to the Madras Establishment, its past services receiving handsome and complimentary recognition in a General Order issued by the Bombay Government. It now quitted the Malabar Coast, and marching again into Mysore arrived on the 4th February at Chitteldroog (about 150 miles north of Seringapatam), where it encamped. The following month it took part in an expedition against the Rajah of Bullum, who had entrenched himself in a strong stockaded position in the forest at Arrakaira.* The post was stormed on the 30th March after a stout resistance. Colonel Montresor reported in his despatch that the column of attack, consisting of the flank companies of the 73rd and 77th, and four companies of sepoy, was led by Captain McPherson, of the 77th, "with a degree of spirit and gallantry which overcame a continued range of obstacles and resistances for nearly a mile and a half through most intricate country."

The regiment had four men killed in this expedition, on the conclusion of which it returned to Chitteldroog.

* Three miles S.E. of Munzerabad. The Rajah—Kistnapah Naik—had taken possession of the Soobromony Ghaut leading from Mysore to Canara, and interrupted communication with Mangalore.

In June it joined a field force formed at Chitteldroog, under Colonel the Hon. Arthur Wellesley—the future Duke of Wellington—to act against the rebel leader Dhoondiah. This man, who had been liberated from the dungeons of Seringapatam on the capture of that place by the British, had collected a large number of followers, including nearly the whole of Tippoo's cavalry and many disaffected persons from Hyderabad, and after seizing several places in the Mahratta country had threatened to enter Mysore. Colonel Wellesley was ordered to pursue him wherever he might be found, and on the 23rd June crossed the Toombudra River at Hurryhur and entered the Mahratta country at the head of two cavalry and three infantry brigades. The 77th formed part of the 1st Infantry Brigade, under Colonel Monypenny. Having captured several of the places held by Dhoondiah's followers, the British on the 26th July, surrounded and attacked the strong fortress of Dummul, a place defended by a wall some thirty feet in height with a deep ditch in front and held by a garrison of a thousand men.

Three columns advanced to attack the place, and were simultaneously successful, after an obstinate resistance by the garrison. Colonel Wellesley, in his despatch, said he could not "say too much in favour of the troops," and especially mentioned the gallantry of Captain McPherson, of the 77th, who commanded a column composed of the flank companies of the regiment and some sepoys.

Four days later the force, after a very harassing march, came up with the rear of Dhoondiah's army as it was crossing the Malpurba River, and inflicted a severe defeat on it, many of the enemy being driven into the river and drowned.

All through August the force continued in pursuit of the rebel leader, whose rapid movements entailed constant and

arduous marches on the British. At the beginning of September, however, Dhoondiah was at length driven into the Raichoor Doab, and on the 10th of that month Colonel Wellesley was able to bring him to an action, in which the rebel force was utterly defeated and broken up and its leader killed.

This action was fought by the cavalry alone, the infantry not being able to get up in time to take part in it, but in his final despatch dealing with this campaign, Colonel Wellesley reported that "all the troops had undergone with greatest patience and perseverance a series of fatiguing marches."

At the beginning of January, 1801, the 77th
1801. arrived in Cotiote, where it was engaged for some time in a series of harassing marches and skirmishes in a thickly-wooded, hilly country, in which the rebel natives had occupied a number of strong positions commanding the roads. Later, during the same campaign, the regiment was employed in the Wynaad country above the Ghauts.

On the 11th April, while still serving in the Wynaad, it received orders to proceed to Palamcotah and join the troops engaged in the Polygar war, who had recently been repulsed in an attack on the fortress of Panjalamcoorchy. Arriving before that place on the 21st May, it joined the force under Colonel Agnew, of the Madras army, assembled for a further attack. The fort was of considerable strength, having a wall and bastion from twelve to fifteen feet in height surrounded by a thick thorn hedge, forming a serious obstacle to an attacking force. A peculiarity of the place was that the bastions were hollow. An assailant on mounting the parapet could find no footing on the top, and was exposed to the long pikes of the defenders some fifteen feet below him. The previous assault had failed through having been made

on the bastions before they had been breached. This mistake was not repeated, and the place was subjected to a heavy bombardment, by which one of the bastions was effectually breached and the neighbouring curtains nearly levelled with the ground. The assault was made at 1 p.m. on the 24th, four companies of the 77th, under Major Grant, taking part in it. The garrison made a most desperate resistance, and, after being greatly impeded in their advance by the thorn hedges, the stormers had a hard fight for more than twenty minutes at the summit of the breach before they became masters of the place. Nearly all the defenders of the bastion had by this time been killed by hand grenades and shot thrown over the wall among them, but the greater part of the garrison of the fort forced their way out and escaped. The British lost 186 officers and men in capturing Panjalamcoorchy, and the 77th had Lieutenants Campbell and Spalding killed and 51 men killed and wounded on this occasion.

After the fall of this fortress the regiment continued to serve against the Polygars in the force under Colonel Agnew, and in the continued marching and counter-marching that ensued took part in several partial engagements and skirmishes, suffering at times considerable loss.

The enemy's principal stronghold was Caliarcoil, a place surrounded by dense forest and very difficult of approach. Colonel Agnew, having left Madura on the 22nd July, reached Serruvial, about five miles distant from Caliarcoil, on the 29th, and shortly afterwards commenced the construction of a road through the almost impenetrable jungle that separated him from the Polygar capital. On the 5th August the enemy threw up an entrenchment across the road, and some hard fighting took place, in which 37 Europeans and 25 natives were killed and wounded.*

* Captain Macintosh of the 77th was among those wounded.

The thick jungle hindered the advance, and the pioneers were stopped by the heavy fire from the enemy sheltered behind banks and entrenchments.

In spite of the difficulties caused by the enemy, the trying climate of Southern India, and continually increasing sickness, Colonel Agnew persisted in his arduous undertaking for some weeks, but on the 2nd September, when constant exposure to the sun and great fatigues had caused much sickness in his force, he at length abandoned his project and retired on Ookoer, about five miles west of Serruvial.

At the end of the month, however, an opportunity presented itself of surprising Caliarcoil, and three columns were set in motion on the 30th to attack that place from different points. The operations were successful, and the column, composed of the 77th and the 6th Madras Infantry, under Lieut.-Colonel Spry, which had commenced its march at night and followed a path recently discovered to the British by a Mahomedan, surprised the enemy at daylight, dispersed them, and captured their stronghold.

This defeat of the Polygars ended the insurrection, and the 77th, rendered almost unfit for further service by the length and severity of the campaign, went into cantonments at Trichinopoly on the 8th November.

The regiment, however, was allowed a very short rest before being again required to take the field, as on the 5th December it was ordered to march to Seringapatam and be in readiness for immediate service.

Arriving at Seringapatam on the 18th, it joined a force under Colonel Wellesley destined to serve against the Rajah of Bullum, who had again rebelled on Colonel Montresor's departure from his territory in 1800, and recommenced his predatory inroads. Owing to the operations against Dhoondiah, the Polygars, and others, the Company had been unable to send a force against him before, and he

had continued his depredations with impunity, but his day of reckoning had now come. Colonel Wellesley attacked his capital, Arrakaira, in three columns, on the morning of the 16th January, 1802, and captured all the

1802. stockaded posts defending it, with trifling loss.

The Rajah fled, but was shortly after captured and executed, and the rebellion in Bullum was entirely suppressed.

The 77th were commended in orders by Colonel Wellesley for their services in this expedition, and, the force being broken up, went into cantonments at Mangalore.

Soon after the regiment's arrival on the Malabar Coast there was an outbreak by the Nairs in Cotiote, who attacked and massacred a detachment of Bombay sepoy's stationed there, and in order to punish the Rajah and reduce Cotiote and the Wynaad to obedience a force, under Colonel Montresor, of the 80th Regiment, was assembled at Tellicherry for service in these two districts.

A detachment of the 77th, consisting of four companies of sixty men each, which comprised nearly all the available men, was despatched from Mangalore in boats, and joined Colonel Montresor at Tellicherry.

During the ensuing campaign in Cotiote and the Wynaad, as in the former one, the services of the troops engaged were of a very arduous description owing to the nature of the country—hilly and densely wooded—and the tactics of the enemy, but by the month of June, when the setting in of the monsoon prevented the troops from continuing any longer in the field, the two districts had been nearly restored to tranquility. The Nairs had been driven into the mountains, many of their villages destroyed, and nearly all their standing corn destroyed.

The headquarters remained at Mangalore till **1803.** July, 1803, when the regiment was ordered to join

the army forming under Colonel Arthur Wellesley for service against the Mahratta chiefs Scindiah and Holkar. The detachment lately employed in Cotiote having rejoined on the 20th July, the regiment left Mangalore on the 28th on its way to join Colonel Wellesley, but on arriving at Cundapoor on the 2nd August was ordered to halt and await further orders. Soon after it was directed to march to the Portuguese port of Goa, which, owing to the renewal of the war with France, was considered in danger of a French attack, and therefore provided with a British garrison.

The 77th, thus prevented from taking part in the Mahratta campaign and sharing in the glories of Assaye, marched from Cundapoor on the 13th August and arriving on the 2nd September at Goa, encamped at Gaspardas, overlooking the entrance to the harbour.

Goa remained unmolested by the French, and **1805.** the 77th continued there inactive till May, 1805, when, having been transferred from the Madras Presidency, it embarked for Bombay. It landed there on the 18th May, and was at first quartered at Colaba, whence it moved in August to Old Woman's Island to make room for the 56th Regiment, lately landed from England.

After more than eighteen years' service in **1806.** India, the regiment received orders in November, 1806, to hold itself in readiness to return to England, and on the 24th of that month it paraded for its last inspection in India before Lieutenant-General Nicholls, Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army.

The regiment having marched past, performed the manual and platoon exercises, and several manœuvres, formed square, and was addressed by the Commander-in-Chief in a "neat and appropriate" speech, in which he pointed out to the men the opportunity they had of serving

their country in India with the same honour and credit as they had done hitherto by entering either of the regiments offered to them which had "stamped themselves with a character worthy of the soldiers of the 77th."*

The "Bombay Courier," in describing this inspection, said:—"It is idle to deduce from its appearance on parade or the manner in which it performed its evolutions, any commendation of a regiment whose military discipline and excellence is best seen in its gallant, steady, and successful conduct in the field, and its exemplary regularity and order in garrison"; and expressed regret at the settlement losing "so agreeable a portion of its society and India so many brave defenders."

The Bombay Government expressed its appreciation of the services rendered by the 77th since its arrival in the Presidency in 1788 in the following order by the Governor in Council issued from Bombay Castle on the 9th February, 1807:—

"The records bear ample testimony to the
1807. high sense which the Government entertained of the conspicuous merits of His Majesty's 77th Regiment at the period of its transfer from this Presidency to that of Fort St. George; and it being now on the eve of departure from India, the Honourable the Governor in Council feels great satisfaction in referring to the order of Government dated 2nd April, 1800, and to have it in his power to add, that since the return of the 77th Regiment to this Presidency their orderly conduct has heightened the favourable sentiments he formerly entertained of that distinguished and valuable corps. In view of the long and faithful service of which during a period of nearly twenty

*" Bombay Courier," 6th December, 1806.

years in India, the officers are allowed to draw three months' full batta previous to their embarkation."

In publishing this order, "so highly creditable to H.M. 77th Regiment, and expressive of the Governor's sense of their merits—since no stronger proof could be given them than by liberally granting three months' batta to the officers," the Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army said he was "happy in being able to concur in all the Governor had been pleased to say of the orderly conduct of the corps since its return to that Presidency, for it had been exemplary, while their appearance and performance on parade had shown him on many occasions that both officers and men were both masters of their business as soldiers."

The headquarters of the regiment, under Colonel White-locke, sailed from Bombay in the "St. Vincent," East India-man, on the 10th February, and was followed during the course of the month by the remainder of the regiment* in the Indiamen "Nelson," "Huddart," and "Ganges." The fleet for England assembled at the appointed rendezvous off Point de Galle, and sailed homeward bound on the 25th March.

On the 29th May, after a long continuance of bad weather, which had scattered the fleet, the "Ganges" was observed to make signals of distress. One of the other vessels succeeded, towards evening, in getting near enough to rescue the passengers (including Lieut.-General Nicholls and part of the 77th under Lieut.-Colonel Maddison) and crew, amounting together to 207 souls, but it was impossible to save the ship, and she sank with a valuable cargo the following day in latitude 39° south, longitude 20° east.

* General Nicholls' "neat and appropriate" speech must have induced a number of men to volunteer to remain in India, as the 77th on arriving in England had only 153 men with the colours. In 1806 after transferring 460 men to its linked battalion, it left Bombay for England with 322.

The fleet, having re-assembled at St. Helena, sailed thence on the 28th June, and arrived in sight of the Lizard on the 4th September.

Ten days later the ships conveying the 77th arrived at Greenhithe, and the regiment, after an absence from England of nineteen and a half years disembarked and took up its quarters in Chatham Barracks.



CHAPTER II.

1807—1811.

The Regiment quartered at Chatham and augmented by volunteers from the Militia—Moves to Lincoln—To Winchester—Employed in Lord Chatham's expedition to the Scheldt—Lands in the Island of Walcheren—Capture of Flushing—Outbreak of fever—Severe losses among the troops—The Regiment returns to England in detachments—Quartered at Chichester—The Plume of the Prince of Wales authorised on the Regimental badge—The Regiment moves to Jersey—Further augmented by volunteers from the Militia—Embarks for service in the Peninsula.

The regiment returned from India very weak
1807. in point of numbers, the effective non-commissioned officers and men present not exceeding 153, but it was soon augmented by recruits and volunteers from the 3rd West York, West Kent, and North Hampshire Militia.*

After being some six weeks at Chatham, during which its old colours were replaced by new ones presented by the East India Company, the regiment moved into quarters in

*The strength, on landing exclusive of officers, was 31 sergeants, 13 drummers, and 109 rank and file. A London paper in September, 1807, referred to the recruiting of the regiment in the following terms:—"With the last India Fleet came home the precious remains of that fine corps the 77th Regiment. Upwards of 19 years ago they went out to India a young regiment, but they greatly distinguished themselves there, there being hardly an affair of consequence in which this very fine regiment was not engaged. So high is the character of this regiment that, though they have not been a week in England, a battalion is almost completed by volunteers from some of the finest Militia Regiments. Colonel Whitelocke (brother of the General), Majors Spry and McGregor have come home with the 77th."

Rochester on the 31st October. It, however, only remained here a short time, as on the 10th November it marched for Lincoln, where it arrived on the 25th. While at Lincoln it continued to be augmented by recruits and volunteers, receiving men from the 1st West York, North and South Mayo, Northampton, South Lincoln, and West Suffolk Militia.*

Lieutenant-General the Earl of Cavan was
1808. appointed colonel of the regiment, vice Bertie, in April, 1808.

On the 8th August the regiment marched from Lincoln for Winchester, where it arrived on the 25th, and occupied the barracks. Between the 25th March and
1809. 24th of June, 1809, 253 volunteers and recruits from the 2nd Royal Lancashire, Tower Hamlets, and other regiments of Militia joined the regiment here.

Colonel Whitelocke having obtained leave to retire from the service, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maddison (the second lieutenant-colonel) succeeded to the command of the regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel John Bromhead, from the 34th Regiment, to the second lieutenant-colonelcy.

The regiment marched from Winchester on the 6th July, and joined the encampment in the neighbourhood of Gosport, to form part of the expedition under the command of the Earl of Chatham, destined for the Scheldt. Having arrived in camp on the 7th July, it was attached to the brigade of Major-General Picton, in Lieutenant-General Frazer's (3rd) division. On the 16th it embarked on board H.M.S. "Illustrious" (74), which sailed on the 25th, and on the 27th anchored in the Downs, where the whole of the expedition assembled.

*The 77th became the East Middlesex Regiment in 1807, but there is no mention in the Records at this time of any men received from the Middlesex Militia.

On the 29th July the expedition sailed for the Scheldt, and anchored in the Stone deep at 3 o'clock p.m. On the 30th the fleet got under weigh and anchored in the Roompot. The troops landed in the evening in the Island of Walcheren, with little opposition; and on the 31st marched to invest the town of Ter Veere, which after a short bombardment from the gun boats, surrendered on the morning of the 1st August.

On the 2nd the regiment joined the investing army at Flushing, taking up a position at the village at Ruttern, near the Fort of Ramakins, and the following day a detachment of the corps broke ground before the Fort of Ramakins, which, however, capitulated before a battery was completed. On the 15th, after a bombardment of two days, Flushing capitulated.

Great sickness had for some time prevailed in that part of the army stationed on the Island of South Beveland, and began to extend itself in an alarming degree in the Island of Walcheren, soon after the troops, in consequence of the termination of the siege, ceased to be actively employed. The 77th, when it marched into barracks at Flushing on the 27th August (its strength being 33 officers and 530 non-commissioned officers and privates), had 15 officers and 359 non-commissioned officers and privates sick of the fever.

The following officers died at Flushing of intermittent fever during the month of September:—Captain Charles MacIntosh, Lieutenants Slack and Gray, and Ensign Hanwell.

The sickness continuing to extend, it was found necessary to embark the worst cases, for the purpose of sending them to England. The first detachment of sick, consisting of 134 men, embarked on the 5th of October, when the strength of the regiment was as follows:—

Fit for duty ... 14 Officers, 120 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.

Sick... .. 4 Officers, 248 Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates.

The sick having continued to embark for England from time to time by small detachments, the state of the regiment on the 22nd November, when the headquarters embarked for England, was as follows:—

Officers 13 Fit for duty... 9 Sick... 4
N.C.O's. and Men... 155 Fit for duty... 126 Sick... 29

A detachment, consisting of Captain Herriott, 2 subalterns, and 100 men, remained to do duty at Flushing, where it was determined to destroy the docks and arsenal before abandoning the Island of Walcheren.

The staff of the regiment embarked in different vessels and landed at various ports in England, but the headquarters were established at Chichester on the

1810. 7th January under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Dunkin, who had succeeded as second

lieutenant-colonel on the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Maddison.

On the 24th February the regiment received the King's permission to bear the plume of the Prince of Wales on its colours and appointments. The badge had been worn by the regiment for some time past, and the Colonel (Lord Cavan) had applied for official sanction for its retention by the corps.

On the 11th April Lieutenant-Colonel Bromhead, who had succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Maddison as senior lieutenant-colonel, joined and assumed command, and soon afterwards the regiment received orders to proceed to Jersey. It left Bexhill (whither it had moved from Chichester) on the 1st June, and marching by Eastbourne, Newhaven, Shoreham, Brighton, and Chichester, reached

Portsmouth on the 7th. There it embarked on the 10th, in transports, in which it arrived at St. Aubin's Pier, Jersey, on the 14th. On first landing the headquarters were stationed at St. Ouen's Barracks, but on the 25th June the regiment marched into camp at Port Marque, where it remained till the end of October. On the 29th

October it moved into Granville Barracks, and **1811.** on the 1st January, 1811, into the barracks on St. Helier's pier. The regiment was considerably strengthened while at Jersey by the accession of recruits and volunteers from the Militia—as many as 244 joining between the 16th of December, 1810, and 24th June, 1811—and in the summer of 1811 received orders to join Lord Wellington's army in Spain.

It accordingly embarked for the Peninsula under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Bromhead on the 25th June.



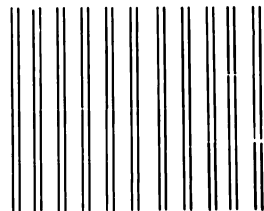
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From an original Oil Painting]

LIEUT.-GENERAL . . .
SIR THOMAS PICTON,
G.C.B., COLONEL, . . .
77TH REGIMENT, . . .
1811—1815. . . .





CHAPTER III.

THE PENINSULA.

1811—1814.

Arrival at Lisbon—March to the front—The Regiment joins Sir Thomas Picton's Division at Albergaria—Blockade of Ciudad Rodrigo—The affair of El Bodon—Retreat of the French—Winter quarters—Sir Thomas Picton appointed Colonel of the 77th—Siege and capture of Ciudad Rodrigo—The main breach carried by the 3rd Division—The 3rd Division marches south—Siege of Badajoz—Assault and capture of the Castle—Fall of the fortress—Return to the north—The Regiment too much reduced in strength to continue in the field—Ordered to the base—March to Lisbon—Gradually augmented by drafts from the depôt—Returns to the front—Lands at Passages—At St. Jean de Luz—Advance into France—Investment of Bayonne—End of the war—The Regiment embarks for Ireland.

The 77th landed at Lisbon on the 5th July, 1811. its strength being 3 field officers, 5 captains, 9 lieutenants, 10 ensigns, 6 staff officers, 36 sergeants, 18 drummers, and 782 rank and file. It remained at Lisbon completing its field equipment till the 20th, and then embarked in boats, in which it was conveyed up the Tagus as far as Vellada. The following day it marched to Santarem, where it remained during the 22nd. A sergeant and five men were unfortunately drowned here while bathing in the Tagus. On the 23rd the regiment continued its march, and proceeding by Gallegao, Punhete,

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and Gaviao, reached Niza on the 31st and joined the 5th Division, under Major-General Dunlop.* Resuming its march next day, the regiment crossed the Tagus at Villa Velha, and moving thence by Castello Branco, Sabugal, and Aldea de Ponte, eventually joined Sir Thomas Picton's (3rd) Division at Albergaria, being posted to the Left Brigade, under Major-General Colville. Its strength on the 15th August, when it marched into cantonments at Alamedilla, was 3 field officers, 4 captains, 9 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 5 staff officers, 54 sergeants, 16 drummers, and 599 rank and file fit for duty, and 42 sick. During the march from Santarem a number of men who had suffered from the Walcheren disease were left behind at the several hospital stations.

Soon after the regiment's arrival at the front the army advanced and blockaded Ciudad Rodrigo, which was completely invested on the 5th September, on which date the 77th marched and occupied quarters at Robleda. The blockade, however, was soon interrupted by the advance of a strong French force, 60,000 strong, with 100 guns, under Marshal Marmont, which arrived at Tamames, three leagues east of the fortress, on the 22nd September. Lord Wellington being unable, through want of numbers, to oppose this force, concentrated his scattered troops and took up a position south-west of Rodrigo to observe the movements of the French. The centre, near El Bodon, was occupied by the 3rd Division, under Major-General Picton. The French marshal, continuing his advance, sent a large convoy of provisions into the fortress on the 24th, and on the following morning despatched General Montbrun with

*An old 77th officer who had joined the regiment on its formation and commanded it at Seringapatam.

14 battalions, 30 squadrons, and 12 guns against General Picton's Division. The position of the division was on the heights of El Bodon and Pastores, on the left bank of the River Agueda, within three miles of Rodrigo—which is lower down and on the opposite bank—commanding a complete prospect of the surrounding plains. Montbrun crossed the Agueda by the bridge at Rodrigo and the fords above it, and advanced rapidly with his cavalry, by the road leading past El Bodon on the west, towards Guinaldo, the allied headquarters. By this movement General Picton's left flank was completely turned, and the action commenced very disadvantageously for him, as he himself, with three regiments, was in the village of El Bodon, over a mile from the point threatened, while two other regiments were so far distant on the right that they could not be called in in time to take part in the action. At this critical moment Lord Wellington ordered Major-General Colville to draw up the 5th and 77th Regiments and the 21st Portuguese, with two brigades of Portuguese artillery, on the hill over which the road to Guinaldo passed, supporting them on the flanks with three squadrons of cavalry. This hill was covered in front and on the flanks by ravines, but was too extensive for the small force available to hold it—the 5th and 77th together did not exceed 700 men—and the French cavalry, in spite of the murderous fire of grape and canister that met them, and the gallant charges of the allied cavalry, succeeded in ascending the slope and capturing the Portuguese artillery, cutting down the gunners beside their pieces. The 5th Regiment thereupon charged the cavalry and re-captured the guns, and the 77th, supported by the Portuguese regiment, at the same time advanced and repulsed the enemy on the left. By this success, however, the French advance was only checked for a time, as their

masses of cavalry pressed forward on either flank, threatening to envelope General Colville's small force, and their supporting infantry rapidly approached.

General Picton had been delayed in moving to the assistance of his left brigade through the difficulties he had experienced in withdrawing his troops from the enclosures of El Bodon, and Lord Wellington, considering the advanced positions of the 3rd Division untenable, ordered him and General Colville to retire and unite in the plain in rear. General Colville at once descended from the hill he had so gallantly held, with his infantry formed in two squares, the 21st Portuguese, accompanied by the cavalry, commencing the retirement. "Then," says Colonel Napier, "the 5th and 77th, two weak battalions formed in one square, were quite exposed, and in an instant the whole of the French cavalry came thundering down on them. How vain, how fruitless, to match the sword with the musket! To send the charging horseman against the steadfast veteran! The multitudinous squadrons, rending the skies with their shouts, and closing upon the glowing square like the falling edges of a burning crater, were as instantly repulsed, scorched and scattered abroad; and the rolling peal of musketry had scarcely ceased to echo in the hills, when bayonets glittered at the edge of the smoke, and with firm and even step the British regiments came forth like the holy men from the Assyrian's furnace."

General Picton having at length extricated his right brigade from the El Bodon enclosures, now joined General Colville, and forming the division in mass of quarter columns, led it towards the entrenched camp at Guinaldo, six miles in rear. His retreat has been thus described* by an officer of the division who was present.

*Grattan's "Adventures with the Connaught Rangers."

“Montbrun, with fifteen squadrons, pressed closely on our right flank, and made every demonstration of attacking with the view of engaging our attention till the arrival of his infantry and artillery, of which he then had only one battery in the field; but General Picton saw his critical position, and that only the most rapid, and at the same time most regular, movement on Guinaldo could save his division. For six miles across a perfect flat, without the slightest protection from any incident of ground, without artillery and almost without cavalry, did the division march. During the whole time the enemy's cavalry never quitted them; a park of six guns advanced with the cavalry, and taking the division in flank and rear, poured in a frightful fire of round shot, grape, and canister. Many men fell this way, and had perforce to be abandoned to the enemy. This was a trying and pitiable situation for troops to be placed in, but in no way shook the courage or confidence of the soldiers; so far from being dispirited or cast down they were cheerful and gay. General Picton conducted himself with his accustomed coolness; he remained on the left flank of the column and repeatedly cautioned the different battalions to mind the quarter distance and the ‘telling off.’ ‘Your safety,’ added he, ‘my credit, and the honour of the army are at stake: all rests with you at this moment.” We had reached within a mile of the camp when Montbrun, impatient lest we should escape from his grasp, ordered his troopers to bring up their right shoulders and incline towards the column: the movement not exactly bringing the squadrons into line, but being the next thing to it. At this time they were within half pistol-shot. General Picton took off his hat, and holding it over his eyes as a shade, looked sternly but anxiously at the French. The clatter of horses and clanking of scabbards was so great

when the right half-squadron moved up that many thought it the forerunner of a general charge: some mounted officer called out 'had we not better form square?' 'No,' replied Picton, 'it is but a ruse to frighten us, but it won't do.' After this the French slackened their pace, and in half-an-hour the division was safe behind the lines at Guinaldo."

The 77th lost 23 men killed and wounded in this affair.* An officer of the regiment, writing home a few days later, said the enemy had "five guns and a howitzer constantly playing on us, and every shot fell among us. That there should have been so many narrow escapes of our officers is almost incredible. Colonel Bromhead was nearly shot twice. A shot fell under Colonel Dunkin's horse and covered him with dirt without hurting him or horse. Our major had a portmanteau knocked from the rear of his saddle by a nine pounder shot within half a foot of his back; he coolly turned round and said 'There was nearly an end of poor Jack.' The adjutant and his horse were knocked down by a shell, but neither of them hurt, although a number of our cavalry galloped over them."

The same writer says "The greater part of our regiment had never seen a shot fired before, but behaved most nobly. Lord Wellington, whose coolness and decision in midst of a hot fire was eminently conspicuous, was close in our rear, and exclaimed 'Well done the 77th' when he saw our men behave so well. After the action we were handsomely complimented by General Picton—certainly the regiment behaved uncommonly well."† Lord Welling-

*In 1818 Sir George Cooke, Colonel of the Regiment, applied for permission for the 77th to bear the words "El Bodon" on their colours. The Commander-in-Chief, however, was of opinion that the affair "did not come under that description for which it is usual to grant permission to regiments to bear on their colours."

†Letter from an officer in the 77th Regiment, dated Cazo de Moyendo, 30th September, 1811, a copy of which is in the collection of "Military Extracts," R.U.S. Institution.

ton's high approval of the conduct of the 77th and other troops at El Bodon was shown in the following general order:—

Rigiosa,

2nd October, 1811.

“ The Commander of the Forces is desirous of drawing the attention of the Army to the conduct of the 2nd Battalion 5th, and 77th Regiments, and the 21st Portuguese Regiment, and Major Arentschild's Portuguese Artillery, under the command of the Honourable Major-General Colville, and of the 11th Light Dragoons and 1st Hussars, under Major-General Alten, in the affair with the enemy on the 25th ult.

“ These troops were attacked by between thirty and forty squadrons of cavalry, with six pieces of cannon, supported by a division consisting of fourteen battalions of infantry with cannon.

“ The Portuguese Artillery were cut down at their guns, before they quitted them, but the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment attacked the cavalry which had taken the guns, and re-took them, while at the same time the 77th Regiment were attacked in front by another body of cavalry, upon which body they advanced and repulsed them.

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“ The troops then retired with the same determined spirit, and in the same good order with which they had maintained their post; the 2nd Battalion 5th, and 77th Regiments in one square and the 21st Portuguese in another, supported by the cavalry and artillery. The enemy's cavalry charged three faces of the square of the British infantry, but were beaten off, and finding from their repeated further efforts that these brave troops were not

to be broken, they were contented with following them at a distance, and with firing upon them with their artillery, till the troops joined the remainder of the 3rd Division, and were afterwards supported by a brigade of the 4th Division.

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“The Commander of the Forces has been particular in stating the details of this action, as it is, in his opinion, a memorable example of what can be effected by steadiness, discipline, and confidence. It is impossible that troops can at any time be attacked by numbers relatively greater than those which attacked the troops under Major-General Colville and Major-General Alten on the 25th September, and the conduct of these troops is recommended to the particular attention of the officers and soldiers of the Army as an example to be followed on all such occasions.”

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After being under arms all day during the 26th the regiment marched at nine at night, when Lord Wellington retreated with the object of taking up a strong position on the River Coa to bar the further advance of the French. The march lasted all night and till six the following evening. Scarcely any food was received all this time, and many men fainted from exhaustion when the regiment at length came to a halt. The army marched again the following day, when heavy rain soaked every one to the skin. On the 29th, however, after four days and nights spent on the march or under arms awaiting attack, the British had a night of rest—Marshal Marmont had declined to attack and retreated from the neighbourhood of Rodrigo the previous day.

The Allied Army now went into cantonments, the 77th taking up its quarters at Forcalhos on the 2nd October.

In the letter quoted above the writer gives an account of the hardships undergone by the regiment while campaigning in the wild, desolate country where they now were. He says:—"We, of course, suffer much here, but cheerfully. This country is a melancholy place; the villages destroyed or deserted, and there is scarcely anything to be got. We sleep in places the most wretched you can conceive, when we can get a place to sleep in, but generally we sleep on the ground in the open air, and the nights now are very cold. . . . We are as comfortable now as we can be in a village nearly deserted. Six of us mess together in one room; we help to cook our own dinners and eat heartily. The meat is generally in the pot an hour after it is killed; notwithstanding, we manage to live very well, though like a set of pigs. To describe the wretched state of the country is completely out of my power. The miserable state of the inhabitants is painful to behold. Their villages are in ruins, and themselves nearly in a state of starvation, and continually obliged to fly to the mountains and abandon their miserable dwellings on the approach of the French."

There was now a lull in the operations, during which preparations were made for besieging Rodrigo. The cold and wet of the succeeding months were severely felt in the miserable quarters occupied by the British troops, and with the bad quality and scarcity of provisions and the inactive life now led, caused much sickness, the regiments that had taken part in the Walcheren expedition suffering especially.*

At this time the 77th was honoured by the appointment (on the 15th October) of Major-General Sir Thomas Picton,

*On the 4th January, 1812, the numbers of the 77th had sunk to 2 field officers, 6 captains, 14 subalterns, 3 staff, 21 sergeants, 7 drummers, and 230 rank and file.

K.C.B., their divisional general, to the colonelcy in place of Sir C. Hastings.

On the 4th January the period of inaction came **1812.** to an end, and the army once more advanced against Rodrigo, Lord Wellington, having now collected sufficient siege material, intending to attempt the capture of the place by a sudden assault before it could be relieved.

The weather was wretched in the extreme—"the most miserable day I ever witnessed," General Picton afterwards declared—snow, rain, cold and wind combining to make the march most harassing. Many men perished of cold and fatigue, as very few carts were available for bringing in stragglers, and any man left by the roadside soon succumbed to the severity of the weather.

The 77th arrived at Martiago that evening, and on the 6th cantoned at El Guadapero, about four and a half leagues from Rodrigo. On the 8th the siege of that fortress commenced. The country on the right bank of the River Agueda being quite bare and destitute of cover, the army remained on the left bank, each of the four divisions present taking it in turn to cross the river and carry on the siege works for twenty-four hours. The 77th, with the 3rd Division, took their turn of duty on the 12th and 15th, having to march twelve miles to the trenches after fording the ice-cold river. They had no tents or huts, and the ground was covered with snow.

The breaches being considered practicable, on the 19th orders were issued for the assault to take place at seven that evening; the 5th, 77th, and 94th, under Colonel Campbell, being posted behind the buildings of the Santa Cruz Convent, about 300 yards from the west side of the fortress, with orders at the appointed time to escalate the *fausse braye* in front and scour it to their left as far as the main

breach, where they were to join and support General Mackinnon's column.

The three regiments reached the convent unseen by the enemy, and at half-past six were formed ready for the assault. It was a clear, starlight night, and a young moon illumined the then tranquil scene. "Suddenly," says an officer of the 77th who was present, "a horseman galloped heavily but hastily towards us—it was Picton. He made a brief and inspiring appeal to us; said he knew the Fifth were men whom a severe fire would not daunt, and he reposed equal confidence in the Seventy-seventh; after a few kind words to our commander, Colonel Dunkin, he bade us 'God-speed,' pounding the sides of his hog-maned cob as he trotted off."^{*}

The attack on the right commenced before the signal was given, and the three regiments under Colonel Campbell advanced with such rapidity that they had cleared the *fausse braye* and were already half way up the main breach when General Mackinnon's column arrived. The united columns of the 3rd Division encountered a desperate resistance and lost heavily by the explosion of a mine in the breach. The enemy retired behind a retrenchment in rear, and the British, pressing up the now widened breach, won the summit, but found their advance checked by the new work, which was protected in front by a deep ditch and flanked by two guns firing grape into the assaulting columns at close range. A furious struggle raged for some minutes, and for a time the issue was doubtful, but at length the men of the "Fighting Division," clambering over the parapets, turned the retrenchment and drove the French before them into the town. The Light Division at the same time carried the lesser breach on the left, and Ciudad Rodrigo was won.

^{*}Robinson's Life of Sir Thomas Picton.

The 77th lost on this occasion fourteen men killed, and six officers—Captain Maclaine (severely, right leg amputated), Captain McLachlan (slightly), Captain Baird (severely), Lieutenant and Adjutant Jones (slightly), Lieutenant Smith (mortally), Ensign Fitzgerald (slightly)—and twenty-eight men wounded. Its conduct at the assault was commended in the following Divisional Order published the following day:—

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Lamora,

20th January, 1812.

Division Orders—

“By the gallant manner in which the breach was last night carried by storm, the 3rd Division has added much to its military reputation, and has rendered itself one of the most conspicuous corps in the British Army. The breach was first entered by the 5th, 77th, and 94th Regiments, most ably supported by the flank companies of Major-General McKinnon’s Brigade and the 45th Regiment, as well as other regiments of the division.

“It is much to be regretted that this brilliant achievement has been obtained at the expense of so many valuable officers and brave men, but they have fallen nobly, doing their duty to their country, and they will be dear to the recollection of every true Briton.”

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“The Commanding Officers of regiments will be pleased to communicate to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of their respective corps the Lieut.-General’s high admiration of their gallantry on this occasion, and to assure them that he conceives the command of the brave

Third Division as the greatest honour His Majesty could confer on him.

“Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, commanding the Right Brigade and 94th Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Dunkin, commanding 77th Regiment, and Major Ridge, the 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment, are particularly entitled to the thanks of the Lieut.-General, as having led and carried the breach.”

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“The spirit evinced by all the corps of the division was equally conspicuous, and there is no doubt that if it had been their lot to lead, that they would have merited equal honour.

“The Lieut.-General promised the flank companies one guinea a man in case they were the first to carry the breach, but as from unforeseen circumstances it fell to the lot of the corps already mentioned, the sum, which would have amounted to about three hundred pounds, will be proportionally divided among the British regiments of the division, who will do the Lieut.-General the honour to drink the future success of the division.”

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On the day after the successful assault of Rodrigo, the 77th returned to El Guadapero. It marched to Martiago on the 27th, and thence by Atalaya and Nava d’Aver, to Villa Maior, where it arrived on the 8th February and cantoned.

The capture of Ciudad Rodrigo having been effected, Lord Wellington’s next object was the reduction of Badajoz, the other great fortress on the Spanish frontier. The 3rd Division being one of those selected to take part in the siege, commenced its march to the southward about the end of February, and the 77th, having arrived at Sabugal

on the 26th, proceeded by Castello Branco, Villa Velha, and Niza to Portalegre, where it arrived on the 5th March. On the 9th it marched and encamped at Elvas; on the 16th it crossed the Guadiana; and on the 17th arrived before Badajoz, and took up its position in the line of investment.

The 77th took its tour of duty in the trenches during the siege, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Rudd, of the regiment, commanded one of the parties at the attack and capture of La Picurina outwork, when he was severely wounded. On the 6th April orders were issued for the assault of the fortress at six different points that night. The 3rd Division was to attack the Castle by escalade, and at eight o'clock formed up in open column right in front near the extreme right of the trenches. Arms were then piled, and officers and men remained for a while conversing in groups, awaiting the moment named for the advance.

The night was dry, though cloudy, with a thick mist from the Guadiana and Rivillas stream enveloping the walls of Badajoz, where, save for an occasional light, all was gloom and darkness. The batteries on either side were silent, and the rippling of the stream and the croaking of innumerable frogs in the neighbouring marshes were the only sounds to be heard.

At 9.25 all was in readiness in the 3rd Division—"the soldiers unencumbered with their knapsacks, their stocks off, shirt collars unbuttoned, and trousers tucked up to the knee. Their tattered jackets, so worn as to render their regiments barely recognisable, and their huge whiskers and bronzed faces, which hard-fought campaigns had changed from their natural hue, but, above all, their self-confidence, devoid of boast or bravado, gave them the appearance of what they were—an invincible host."^{*}

^{*}Captain Grattan.

The assault was to have been made at ten o'clock, but some time before then a lighted carcass thrown from the fortress discovered the 3rd Division to the French, who at once opened a heavy fire.

Under these circumstances, Major-General Kempt, who was in temporary command, gave the order to attack at once. With a shout of defiance to the French the Division, formed in one solid mass four thousand strong, charged forward, crossed the Rivillas, and sweeping up the rocky slope beyond raised their ponderous ladders against the castle walls. Every possible preparation had been made by the French to repel the attack. The defenders were provided with several muskets apiece, and with pikes for pushing back the ladders, as well as heavy beams of timber, large rocks, live shells, and hand grenades to hurl among the assailants. In spite of everything the stormers gallantly pressed up their ladders amid the rain of missiles from above and the hail of grape and case shot poured into them from the bastions on the flank, which, with the tremendous musketry fire from the ramparts, carried death and destruction amid their ranks.

An hour passed, however, without any impression being made. The ladders, with their living freights, were hurled to the ground one after another, and the regiments of the 3rd Division, "baffled but untamed," drew back to re-form their shattered ranks under shelter of the rugged edge of the hill. Returning again to the assault, their desperate courage at length achieved success. Colonel Ridge, of the 5th, succeeded in gaining a footing on the ramparts at a spot where their height was less than elsewhere, and an embrasure lent some assistance to the stormers. The footing thus established was made good—more and more men forced their way into the castle, and at last, after hard fighting, the 3rd Division drove the enemy into the town, and

successfully resisting a counter-attack remained in possession of the citadel. Hitherto the enemy had succeeded in repelling the attack at the breaches, but the capture of the castle and the entry of the 5th Division into the town on the western side compelled them to give up the struggle. They retired in haste across the river, and Badajoz was in the hands of the Allies.

In the assault the 77th had four officers and twenty-three men killed and wounded. As the regiment was at the time very weak, this loss was considerable in proportion to its strength. The officers wounded were:—Lieut.-General Picton, Lieut.-Colonel Dunkin, Captain McLachlan, and Captain Clarke.

On the 12th April the 3rd Division marched from Badajoz on its return to the north, the enemy having advanced and threatened Almeida. The route taken was by Campo Mayor, Villa Velha, Castello Branco, and Belmonte to Sabugal, and the 77th occupied its old quarters at Forcalhos on the 24th.

Principally through sickness, which to a very large extent was due to fever contracted during the deplorable Walcheren expedition, the regiment was very much reduced in strength, and it had been necessary some time before to send the colours to the rear at Castello Branco.

There being now less than a hundred men left fit for service, the regiment was considered no longer fit to remain in the field, and it was accordingly ordered back to the base at Lisbon to recruit. It must have been a bitter disappointment to the regiment, after sharing for a few months only in the glories of the famous "Fighting Division," to be thus relegated to inactivity at the base, while their more fortunate comrades remained to participate in the victories of Salamanca and Vittoria.

The regiment marched by the usual route—so well

known to officers and men of the Peninsular Army—past Castello Branco, Villa Velha, Abrantes, and Santarem, and reached Lisbon on the 16th May. From the 9th till the 20th of June it occupied the Marquis of Pombal's palace at Oeiras, but on the latter date it returned to Lisbon, and was quartered in the barracks at Campo d'Ourique.

On the 20th March, 1813, the regiment moved **1813.** from Campo d'Ourique, and took over quarters in the citadel of Lisbon, the ancient Castle of St. George. It continued from time to time to receive reinforcements from the depôt at home, and by October, 1813, had sufficiently recovered in strength to be considered fit to return to the front. It embarked at Lisbon on the 15th October, under Lieutenant-Colonel Bromhead, with a strength of 27 officers and 459 men, and landed at Passages on the 6th November.

On the day of its disembarkation the regiment marched to Oyarzum, where it shortly received orders to detach 13 officers and 300 men to England as guards to French prisoners captured at Pamplona. The remainder of the regiment marched to St. Jean-de-Luz on the 14th November, and joined the brigade commanded by Major-General Lord Aylmer.

The 77th took no part in the actions on the Nive in December, and remained at St. Jean-de-Luz till **1814.** the middle of February, 1814, when, fine weather setting in, the Allied Army broke up from its winter quarters and resumed its advance. Having reached Bidart, a village some little distance south-west of Biarritz, on the 14th, it advanced on the 23rd with Lord Aylmer's brigade, which formed part of the left wing of the army under Sir John Hope, destined to force the passage of the Adour and blockade Bayonne. Some smart skirmishing took place on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th, in which the regi-

ment took a leading part, driving in many of the enemy's picquets and co-operating in the operations leading to the passage of the Adour by the 1st Division.

On the 26th the regiment occupied the village of Anglet, two miles south-west of Bayonne, an important post in the line of investment now formed round the fortress. While here it was rejoined by the detachment sent to England as escort to prisoners of war. Siege operations against the citadel of Bayonne, on the north side of the Adour, being commenced, the various brigades in Sir John Hope's corps were detailed in turn to take their tour of duty in the trenches, and the 77th crossed the river for this purpose on the 27th March.

It, however, returned to the south bank some days later, and was on duty guarding the communications across the river on the 14th April, the date of the great sortie from the citadel of Bayonne, when so many lives were uselessly sacrificed on both sides.

On the cessation of hostilities, which took place a few days later, the division to which the 77th was attached remained in the vicinity of Bayonne, and the regiment continued there till the 24th August, when it marched to Passages. On the 25th it embarked and sailed for Ireland, being the last corps of the British Army to quit the Peninsula.*

*In 1816 H.R.H. the Duke of York, the Commander-in-Chief, sanctioned the issue of a regimental medal to non-commissioned officers and men of the 77th who had served at El Bodon, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, and Seringapatam. The official war medal was not issued till some twenty years later.

CHAPTER IV.

1814—1853.

The Regiment lands at Cork — Cashel — Limerick — Galway — Dublin—Moves to England—Rochdale and Sunderland—To Scotland—At Edinburgh during visit of King George IV. —Return to Ireland—Embarkation at Middleton for Jamaica —Severe losses from fever—The Regiment embarks for England after ten years in Jamaica—Lands at Portsmouth—To Edinburgh and Glasgow—Liverpool—Move to Ireland—Mullingar, Newry, and Dublin—Ordered on foreign service after less than three years at home—Embarks at Cork for the Mediterranean — Malta — Corfu — To Jamaica again — To Halifax, Nova Scotia—Service in Canada—Return to England —Landed at Portsmouth—Newport—Plymouth—Weedon—Glasgow.

The regiment, consisting of 28 officers, 35
1814. sergeants, 13 drummers, and 515 rank and file, under the command of Brevet Lieut.-Colonel John Rudd, landed at Cork on the 8th and 9th September, and the following month marched to Cove (now Queens-town), where it occupied the forts and barracks
1815. till May, 1815, when it returned to Cork. In
1816. February, 1816, it marched to Cashel, from which place it moved in November to Limerick. Galway was the regiment's next station, the date of its move thither being June, 1818, and while there it was visited in the summer of 1819 by

1819. Major-General Sir George Cooke, K.C.B.,* who had been appointed Colonel of the regiment on the death of Sir Thomas Picton at Waterloo.

Sir George spent three weeks with the regiment, inspecting the discipline and interior economy, and on his departure announced in Regimental Orders "The great satisfaction he felt at having become personally acquainted with the regiment, of which he had the honour to be colonel, and how much he saw reason for approving everything he had witnessed relating to its good order and discipline."

In August, 1820, the regiment was relieved at

1820. Galway by the 57th,† from Kilkenny and Clonmel, and marched under Major Maclaîne, to Dublin, where it remained till the 13th November, when it embarked at the Pigeon House for Liverpool. On arriving in England the headquarters were stationed at Rochdale, and detachments at Stockport and Blackburn.

Marching from these quarters the following

1821. August, the regiment spent two months at Sunderland, and then proceeded in four divisions (by way of Newcastle, Carlisle, Longtown, Moffat, and Hamilton) to Glasgow, where the headquarters arrived on the 6th November.

In February the headquarters and flank com-

1822. panies marched to Edinburgh, and there being at this time no other infantry regiment in Scotland, detachments were furnished to Stirling Castle, Dum-

*Sir George Cooke joined the service as ensign in the 1st Foot Guards in 1784, and served with his regiment in Flanders and Holland in 1794 and 1799. He afterwards served in Sicily and Walcheren, and commanded at Cadiz for some time during the Peninsular War. In command of the 1st Division he was present at Waterloo and lost his right arm on that memorable day. He was gazetted K.C.B. on the 22nd June, 1815.

† This appears to have been the only occasion prior to 1879 on which the two regiments met.

barton Castle, Fort William, Fort Augustus, Fort George, Glasgow, Paisley, and the Isles of Arran and Islay. In consequence of the expected visit of King George IV. to Scotland, the regiment, with the exception of a small detachment at Fort William, was concentrated at Edinburgh Castle in July. A detachment, under Major Maclaine, proceeded to Dalkeith to furnish the infantry duties during the King's residence there, and the Grenadier company, under Captain Baird, furnished the guard of honour at Holyrood House on His Majesty's arrival at the palace. A similar guard of honour escorted the regalia of Scotland from the Crown Room to the barrier gate of the castle, where it was handed over to the officer of state appointed to receive it. On the termination of the Royal visit six companies again proceeded on detachment.

The following December Colonel Bromhead retired from the service, after having commanded the regiment nearly fourteen years, and was succeeded in the lieutenant-colonelcy (by purchase) by Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Murdoch Maclaine.

The regiment left Scotland in May, 1823, embarking at Port Patrick for Donaghadee, whence it marched to Belfast. It remained at Belfast till October, and then marched to Dublin. A few days after its arrival in Dublin the regiment was warned for service in Jamaica, and directed to hold itself in readiness to march to Fermoy, where it was to await the arrival of transports at the Cove of Cork. It arrived at Fermoy on the 29th December, and three weeks later embarked at Middleton on board three West Indiamen—the "Beaufort," "Palamburn," and "Dorothy Foster."

Owing to contrary winds the transports were detained in the Cove till the 14th February, when they at length set sail for Jamaica. The

headquarters, under Major Place, landed at Port Royal on the 30th March, and marched to Stony Hill, where they were shortly after joined by the rest of the regiment.

This was the first occasion on which the 77th had served in the West Indies, and the regiment was destined to have a bitter experience of the deadly epidemic prevalent there, which has robbed the British Army of so many thousands of gallant soldiers.

A remittent fever of a very malignant nature **1825.** broke out in February, 1825, and continued to rage with but short intervals till September, when the regiment embarked at Kingston for Falmouth, on the north side of the island.

By the 21st September the regiment had suffered a loss of twelve officers—Brevet Major McKenzie, Captains Bowen, Piggott, and Jeffery; Lieutenants Elliott, Faulkner, F. Corfield, Marshall, and Wilkinson; Ensigns W. Clarke and Irvine; and Assistant-Surgeon Fraser—eleven sergeants, four drummers, and 226 rank and file out of less than 600 of all ranks who had landed in Jamaica eighteen months before.

The regiment was quartered at Falmouth and **1827.** Maroon Town for over two years, and returned to the south side of the island in October, 1827, when it disembarked at Port Henderson and marched to the barracks at Spanish Town. From these

1828. quarters it moved in November 1828, to Up Park Camp, where Lieut.-Colonel Bradshaw assumed the command in succession to Lieut.-Colonel Maclaine, who died in November, 1828, after twenty-nine years' service in the regiment. After spending a year at Up

1829. Park Camp the 77th moved in November, 1829, to Fort Augusta and Kingston, headquarters and four companies being at the former. The number of ser-

vice companies was now only six (of 86 rank and file each) instead of eight, as at the time of the regiment's arrival in Jamaica. The depôt consisted of four companies (of 56 rank and file each) under a major, with a subaltern as adjutant, and formed a small battalion for home service. This was the organisation of infantry regiments on foreign service up to the time of the Crimean War.

In January, 1831, the headquarters moved from **1831.** Fort Augusta to Stony Hill, where four companies were stationed, while the other two, under Captain Alger, moved to Port Antonio. Another detachment (4 officers and 100 men) to Kingston was furnished from headquarters in March. The regiment had another unhappy experience of Stony Hill. In the months of July and August the troops in Jamaica became generally unhealthy from the prevalence of malignant fever of a character more aggravated than usual. At Stony Hill the regiment suffered severely, and the disease appeared to be similar in its type to that which prevailed in 1825. During the quarter ending the 30th September the number of admissions to hospital was 98, out of which 23 cases terminated fatally.

The season had been unusual, and far from natural, a long period of drought being followed by an equally extended continuance of rain and fog. The principal sufferers were the healthy and robust—especially the last draft, which had been in the country about eighteen months. The Light Company lost men in the greatest proportion, and were moved to the Apostles' Battery in August, but without any improvement in their health resulting. The detachment at Port Antonio also suffered severely.

An insurrection of slaves having broken out in the parishes of St. James and Trelawney and other parts of the island at Christmas, the regiment was partially employed

in restoring order. Fifty men of the flank companies, under Major Wilson, and the two companies from Port Antonio, under Captains Alger and Buchan, were engaged on this duty, and received the thanks of the parishes concerned for their services.

In March, 1832, the regiment concentrated at **1832.** Spanish Town, and was re-distributed as follows :
Headquarters and three companies at Spanish Town, two companies at Fort Augusta, and one at Stony Hill.

King William IV. on succeeding to the throne caused a number of alterations to be made in the uniforms of the Army and Navy, and amongst others the substitution of gold for silver lace in those of the officers of certain line regiments. The 77th when first raised had worn lemon-colour facings and silver lace. The former had been changed in 1820, when a uniform shade had been introduced for all regiments wearing yellow facings, and the silver lace now* gave place to gold.

The regiment embarked at Port Henderson for a second tour of service in the north of the island on the 4th April 1833, and disembarking at Montego Bay marched and occupied quarters at Falmouth and Port Antonio—headquarters at the former. In August Lieutenant Powell and 64 men of "D" Company were detached to Bideford, where they suffered severely from the local fever. Sixteen men died, and with one single exception every man of the detachment passed through the hospital.

Having been nearly ten years in Jamaica, the regiment was ordered in October to be in readiness to **1834.** return to England. It embarked at Montego Bay on the 15th May, 1834, on H.M. troopship "Romney," and arrived at Portsmouth on the 23rd June.

* 1st May, 1832.

The dépôt companies being already at Portsmouth, the whole regiment was now united under Colonel Bradshaw, and quartered in the Colewort and Cambridge Barracks. It was inspected on Southsea Common on the 1st August by Lord Hill, General Commanding-in-Chief, who expressed his approval of the appearance and efficiency of the corps after its long service in the West Indies.

After a stay of less than two months at Portsmouth the regiment re-embarked on the 15th August on board the transport "Romney" for Scotland, and landed at Leith after a voyage of fifteen days. For some weeks it remained quartered in Edinburgh Castle, but on the 20th October it marched thence for Glasgow, where it remained till the end of 1835. While at Glasgow the regiment

1835. received new colours, which were presented to the corps by Major-General Sir P. Stewart, Commanding the Forces in North Britain, on the 25th September, the anniversary of El Bodon. The colonel of the regiment was now Major-General Sir Archibald Campbell, Bart., G.C.B., who had been appointed (in December, 1834) in succession to Sir George Cooke, removed to the 40th Regiment.

On the 3rd and 4th November the 77th embarked at the Broomielaw, Glasgow, on board the steamers "Manchester" and "City of Glasgow," and after a very tempestuous voyage, in which much suffering was experienced—two men died from the inclemency of the weather—landed at Liverpool on the 5th and 6th. Headquarters and two companies remained at Liverpool; two companies were detached to Chester, three to Wigan, and three to Haydock Grange.

The following year the regiment changed its
1836. quarters three times. It embarked at Liverpool on the 25th March, landed at the North Wall,

Dublin, and marched to Mullingar, where it remained till the 27th June, when, "by a sudden route," it marched to Newry, and occupied the barracks there, one company being detached to Downpatrick. The next move was to Dublin, whither the regiment marched on the 30th September, arriving on the 4th October. It at first occupied quarters in Richmond Barracks, but moved to Beggars Bush, George Street, and Pigeon House Fort in May, 1837.

At this time, owing to the limited number of
1837. battalions in the British Army, the period of service at home was very short in comparison with that abroad, and the 77th had been less than three years at home when they were again warned for foreign service.

In August the service and depôt companies were formed at Beggars Bush Barracks by Lieutenant-General Sir E. Blakeney, K.C.B., Commanding the Forces in Ireland, and in October the service companies embarked in steamers for Cork, leaving the depôt at Pigeon House Fort. The service companies remained in Cork Barracks till the end of November, and then embarked in H.M. transport "Jupiter," in which they arrived at Malta after a favourable passage of nineteen days.

On first landing the headquarters were stationed at Fort Ricasoli and detachments at Fort Tigue and
1838. Fort Salvatore, but on the 13th January the headquarters moved to Isola Gate and Francesco de Paulo and the Fort Tigue detachment was withdrawn.

In January, 1839, the regiment moved from
1839. the Cottonera district and occupied quarters at the Auberge de Castille and Lower St. Elmo lines in Valetta. This winter H.M. the Queen Dowager Adelaide visited Malta, and the 77th furnished the guard of honour on the occasion of Her Majesty's landing, and on other occasions during her visit.

In May the regiment was inspected by H.R.H. Prince George (afterwards Duke) of Cambridge, who expressed in very flattering terms his approval of its appearance and condition.

Lieutenant-General Sir J. Macleod, K.C.B.,

1840. was appointed colonel in February, 1840, vice Sir Archibald Campbell, transferred to the 62nd.

After a stay of sixteen months in Valetta the regiment was moved in May, 1840, to the Floriana Barracks, where it remained till the following year. While here

1841. it was inspected (on the anniversary of the storming of Badajoz) by General Lord Lynedoch, who complimented the regiment in the most flattering terms on its appearance, movements, and steadiness under arms.

In May, 1841, the regiment moved to the Auberge de Bavaria and Lower St. Elmo Lines, in which quarters it passed the remainder of its service in Malta, em-

1842. barking for Corfu in February, 1842. Prior to its departure the Governor, Sir H. F. Bouverie, K.C.B., expressed his approbation of its appearance, good order and discipline while in his command.

While at Corfu the headquarters were at the Citadel, and one company in the island of Vido, but the stay of the regiment in these quarters was of less than a year's

1843. duration, as in January, 1843, it embarked in H.M. troopship "Resistance" for a second tour of service in Jamaica. The "Resistance" met with very rough weather in the Mediterranean, and was as much as twenty-five days reaching Gibraltar. A fortnight was spent at the "Rock," and the voyage resumed on the 1st March, Port Royal, Jamaica, being at length reached on the last day of that month. On the 6th April the regiment landed for inspection by Major-General Berkeley, commanding in

Jamaica, who highly commended the appearance and steadiness of the corps, which praise was particularly gratifying considering the regiment landed for this inspection at a few hours' notice after nearly three months at sea. Immediately after the inspection the regiment returned on board the "Resistance," and on the 13th sailed for the north side of the island.

Arriving in Montego Bay (where it had embarked for England in 1834) the following day, it disembarked at sunset on the 15th, when the headquarters marched to Maroon Town, two companies being detached to Falmouth and one to Lucca.

For the following two and a half years or so
1844-5. the 77th remained in these quarters, and during this period effected great improvements in the cantonments at Maroon Town. New roads were formed, the bush cut down to a considerable extent, swamps drained and cleared, and a large garden enclosed and cultivated for the use of the troops. All these works contributed to the good appearance of the place and to the health and comfort of the garrison.

On the 21st January, 1846, headquarters and
1846. three companies marched from Maroon Town and embarked at Montego Bay for Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they arrived on the 22nd February, the other three companies following two months later. In June detachments were sent to Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, Annapolis, Windsor, and York Redoubt, but these were withdrawn in August on receipt of orders for the regiment to embark for Canada.

Embarking at Halifax in H.M.S. "Belleisle" on the 2nd September, the regiment reached Quebec on the 10th of that month, and was conveyed in steamers up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, whence it marched in two divisions to

St. John on the Richelieu River, arriving on the 14th and 17th September.

In June, 1847, notification was received from
1847. the Horse Guards that the regiment was shortly to return to England, and in August it moved to Montreal, where it was stationed awaiting embarkation.
1848. During the elections at Montreal in January, 1848, serious disturbances occurred, and the 77th were employed in preserving order, being under arms in most inclement weather day and night on the 11th and 12th of that month. In a General Order by Lieutenant-General Sir Benjamin D'Urban, Commanding in British North America, it was stated that "the duty, owing to the intense cold, was trying in the extreme, and the troops performed it with the utmost patience, forbearance, and good will." In the same General Order the Lieutenant-General desired "also especially to praise the energy, firmness, and sound judgment of Major Egerton, of the 77th Regiment, and the services of the two divisions of that Corps under his immediate orders, commanded respectively by Captains Griffiths and Forbes, which restored order in the town at two critical periods of riot and confusion."

The regiment continued to serve in Canada till the 22nd May following, when it sailed from Quebec in the "Bombay" transport for England. Previous to its departure the Commander of the Forces expressed to Major Egerton in a General Order "his unqualified approbation of the high state of discipline, order, and good conduct in all regards" of the regiment.

The "Bombay" entered Portsmouth Harbour at daylight on the 26th June, and the service companies of the 77th having disembarked at the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard proceeded that evening by special train to Winchester.

The depôt companies were at this time at Cork awaiting

transport to England in the "Bombay." The stay of the service companies at Winchester was of very short duration, as in consequence of sudden orders they moved on the 24th July to Portsmouth, where they arrived at half-past nine at night. The depôt having landed from the "Bombay" the same afternoon, the whole ten companies were again united and quartered in the Royal Clarence Barracks.

On the 5th August Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, who had recently been in command of the depôt, was promoted to the command of the regiment, vice Colonel Bradshaw, who, after upwards of forty years' service in the 77th (during twenty of which he had held the command) was compelled by failing health to retire on half-pay.

Owing to his long service Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson was promoted to an unattached lieutenant-colonelcy and brought back to the command of the regiment without purchase in the same Gazette. He, however, only held the command of the 77th for a few months, and ex-
1849. changed with Lieutenant-Colonel George Duberly, of the 64th, the following March.*

Her Majesty the Queen being at this time at Osborne, the regiment had constantly during its stay at Portsmouth the honour of furnishing the guard to Her Majesty at the place of embarkation.

By a happy coincidence it fell to the lot of the regiment to furnish the first guard which had ever mounted over the person of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on the occasion of His Royal Highness proceeding unaccompanied by the Queen and Prince Consort from Osborne to Windsor on the 13th October, 1849, when the standard of the Prince of Wales was first displayed since the reign of King George

*Colonel Wilson commanded the 64th in the Mutiny and was killed in action at Cawnpore.



LIEUT.-COLONEL THOMAS GRAHAM EGERTON.

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LIBT.-COLONEL. I.

III. The young Prince, seeing his own plume emblazoned upon the Queen's Colour of the Regiment, was pleased to command that the Colour should be brought to him to look at, which was accordingly done by Major Egerton, who commanded the guard. The other officers on this duty were Captain Crofton, Lieutenants Leslie and Wallack.

After remaining nearly two years in the garrison of Portsmouth, the regiment left that station for South Wales and Monmouthshire in the spring of 1850. The headquarters started on the 22nd April, and proceeded by rail as far as Salisbury, whence they marched by Heytesbury to Bath. From Bath they travelled by train to Bristol, and embarked there on steamers for Newport, where they arrived on the 25th. Detachments were sent to Pont-y-Pool, Swansea, Carmarthen, Cardigan, and Pembroke Dock. While in these quarters Major Egerton succeeded to the lieutenant-colonelcy, vice Colonel Duberly, who retired in December, 1850, and Major-General George Brown, C.B. (then Adjutant-General) to the colonelcy, in place of Sir John Macleod who died on the 3rd April, 1851.

On the 16th April the headquarters left Newport for Devonport. The several detachments followed at intervals up to the 1st May, when the regiment was distributed between the various barracks in Devonport and the Citadel of Plymouth, with detachments at Pendennis Castle, St. Nicholas Island, Maker Heights, and the Convict Prison at Dartmoor.

Colonel Love, Commanding the South Wales District, issued a very flattering order on the regiment's departure from his command, in which he expressed the great satisfaction which had been afforded him at the recent half-yearly inspection "from the good order and high state of discipline in which he found the regiment, not only at the head-

quarters, but in every detachment—a convincing proof of the excellent system which prevailed in the corps”; also his approval of the “uniform good conduct of the corps since it had been in that district, and his personal regret at it being removed.”

At the end of July the regiment moved from Devonport into the Citadel at Plymouth, and during the autumn the various detachments rejoined on relief by the 19th Regiment.

From Plymouth the regiment moved in 1852. August, 1852, to Weedon, where it relieved the 93rd Highlanders. One company was detached to Wolverhampton, and on the 30th August the band and flank companies proceeded to Derby for duty during the stay there of Her Majesty the Queen and Royal Family on their way to Scotland. A similar guard was furnished by the 77th at Wolverhampton on Her Majesty's return.

The following autumn the reorganisation of the Militia under the Act of the last Session of Parliament gave ample employment to regiments of the line, who were called upon to furnish drill instructors in great numbers to aid them in this, their first training since Waterloo. Amongst others, parties of the 77th were attached to the Northampton, Warwick, Lincoln, Rutland, and Huntingdon Militia.

On the occasion of the funeral of the Duke of Wellington on the 18th November, it was the express command of Her Majesty the Queen that each regiment of the British Army should be represented by a detachment. The 77th was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Graham Egerton, Captain Alexander Aitken, Lieutenant William Rickman, a sergeant, corporal, and six men. The party left Weedon on the 13th November, and was billeted in Paddington.

After taking part in the parade at Chelsea Hospital on the 17th—when for the first time detachments of every

corps of the British Army appeared together—and the funeral procession from the Horse Guards' Parade to St. Paul's, the party returned on the 22nd.

The regiment remained at Weedon till April, **1853.** 1853, when it moved to Glasgow, where by a curious coincidence it relieved the same regiment (the 82nd) as in 1835.

Three companies were detached to Paisley and a subaltern's party to Dumbarton Castle.



CHAPTER V.*

THE CRIMEA.

1854—1856.

The Regiment suddenly warned for active service—Embarks at Liverpool for Malta—Leaves Malta for Turkey—At Scutari—Joins the Light Division—Lands at Varna—In Bulgaria—Sails for the Crimea and disembarks in Kalamita Bay—Battle of the Alma—Advance on Sebastopol—Capture of the Castle of Balaclava—Commencement of the Siege—Battle of Inkerman—Sufferings and losses during the winter—Capture of the Rifle Pits and death of Colonel Egerton—Unsuccessful assault—Death of Lord Raglan—Gallantry and death of Captain Pechell—Fall of Sebastopol—Destruction of docks and buildings. An armistice established—Conclusion of Peace—Evacuation of the Crimea—The 77th sails for England.

On the 12th February a letter of readiness was **1854.** received for the regiment to embark for Malta, with a view to its forming one of the corps intended for employment on active service in the dominions of the Sultan. This order was promptly followed by the recall of the several detachments, with the exception of that at Paisley, and 100 volunteers were called for, from the depôts forming the provisional battalion at Chatham, to augment the ranks. These were speedily obtained, and

*The chapter in the official regimental records relating to the Crimean Campaign is given in full excepting some unimportant returns and details.

the regiment was then formed into eight service companies, comprising 850 rank and file, and two depôt skeleton companies, made up of invalids, and men unfit for active employment.

On the 28th February the regiment marched out of Glasgow, amidst the acclamations of countless thousands, and proceeded by two special trains, viâ Carlisle, to Preston, picking up the companies from Paisley on the way. Arriving at Preston the same night, it proceeded to occupy Fulwood Barracks until required for embarkation. Here it was met by 50 additional volunteers from the 35th Regiment.

On the 10th of March, at an early hour, the headquarters and seven of the service companies proceeded by one enormous train of the East Lancashire Railway Company, to Liverpool, where it was received by the Mayor and Municipal Authorities, by whom a sumptuous dinner had been prepared for the officers. At the request of the authorities, the regiment formed a square within the Exchange, to present arms, and give three hearty cheers for the Queen, which were responded to far and wide by all classes. Proceeding to the docks, it embarked on board the Australasian Pacific Mail Company's screw steamship "Kangaroo," a new iron vessel, and in the course of the night the camp equipage and stores were put on board, and every preparation made for sailing next morning.

The strength embarked was :—

Lieutenant-Colonel T. G. Egerton.

Major R. J. Straton.

Major G. Dixon.

Captain W. Forbes.

Captain E. C. T. Crofton.

Captain B. O'Brien.

Captain G. H. S. Willis.
 Captain H. R. Carden.
 Captain W. W. G. Dilke.
 Lieutenant T. O. Foster.
 Lieutenant G. Leslie.
 Lieutenant J. Nicholson.
 Lieutenant H. Kent.
 Lieutenant B. D. Gilby.
 Lieutenant R. Walmesley.
 Lieutenant W. M. C. Acton.
 Lieutenant C. H. France.
 Lieutenant R. B. Willington.
 Ensign W. J. Carden.
 Ensign F. Alder.
 Ensign A. Lempriere.
 Ensign A. F. Maine.
 Ensign M. W. Dickson.
 Paymaster W. T. Scott.
 Lieutenant and Adjutant W. Rickman.
 Quartermaster J. R. Breading.
 Surgeon J. S. Prendergast.
 Assistant Surgeon C. Macartney.

37 sergeants, 13 drummers, and 742 rank and file.

Owing to want of room on board the "Kangaroo" one company had to be left to follow later. It consisted of:— Captain F. Kennedy, Lieutenant E. H. Chawner, Ensign F. J. Butts, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer, and 80 rank and file. Assistant Surgeon R. C. Burton was left with this company.

Captain John Hackett, who had joined the staff of the army destined for Turkey, was the only officer belonging to the service companies absent.

The officers left with the depôt companies were:—

Captains H. J. Wallack and W. Pechell, Lieutenants H. St. George and A. M. Richards, Ensigns C. H. Massy and W. A. M. Orpen.

At 8 o'clock on the 11th of March, 1854, the "Kangaroo," slowly threading her way through the crowd of shipping in the docks and river, commenced her outward voyage. In the Irish Channel she encountered a very heavy gale of wind, which continued without abatement for several days, during which the men suffered a good deal from the crowded state below and the want of ventilation. Five out of the eight officers' chargers embarked died within a few hours of each other from stress of weather, three belonging to Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton, one to the adjutant, and one to the surgeon.

On the 19th of March, the "Kangaroo" steamed by the Rock of Gibraltar, and the troops in garrison at Europa Point cheered heartily as she passed. At daylight on the 24th the regiment arrived in Malta Harbour, and the same evening disembarked at the Dockyard, and proceeded to encamp at St. Clements, near the Zubbar Gate, where the 44th Regiment was already under canvas. On the 31st March, the regiment struck tents, and proceeded to occupy temporary quarters at the Rope Walk, near Isola Gate, which had originally been fitted up for the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. The rooms were of that extent, that two were made to contain the whole corps, 680 men sleeping with comfort in one.

On the 8th of April, the company left in England, arrived out by the "Cambria" steamship, and on the 9th the regiment embarked on board the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamship "Indus" (which had put in disabled on her outward voyage to Alexandria with the Indian Mail), and in tow of the "Cambria," containing a wing of the 49th Regiment, left under sail the same evening for the Dardanelles.

The "Himalaya" steamer left Malta about the same time with the 33rd and 41st Regiments for the same destination.

On the 14th the "Indus" passed up the Dardanelles and anchored at Gallipoli. Orders were awaiting the regiment to proceed at once to the Bosphorus together with all troops subsequently arriving; the British contingent at Gallipoli being limited to the division already disembarked consisting of the 4th, 28th, 44th, 50th, 93rd, and 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade.

On the 15th, at sunset, the "Indus" and "Cambria" continued their voyage across the sea of Marmora, and about 8 o'clock on the following morning, the minarets of Stamboul were in sight. By noon the ships had anchored at Unkiar Skalessi on the Asiatic side, nearly opposite Therapia, and about 14 miles above Constantinople. No disembarkation was here made; as from the absence of all preparations on shore, it was evident that some alteration had taken place in the views and intentions of the British Ambassador.

Towards evening, orders arrived to return to Constantinople and disembark at Scutari, where the 33rd and 41st had already landed. The disembarkation was effected on the 16th, and the regiment went into a portion of the barracks lately erected by the Sultan near the beach. Immediately on landing the regiment was inspected by His Highness the Seraskier Pacha, or Minister of War, who was pleased to express his astonishment that troops "coming from the sea" should appear so clean and efficient.

The arrival of fresh troops from England caused the regiment to vacate the barracks, and on the 25th April it encamped outside Scutari, and with the 88th and 95th Regiments, formed the brigade under Brigadier-General

Pennefather, C.B. On the 4th of May two companies marched for Kuledi, a station about four miles up the Bosphorus, where they encamped, and were employed in assisting to disembark the guns and horses of the Royal Horse Artillery. This duty was accomplished in a fortnight, when they returned to headquarters.

Upon the arrival of General Lord Raglan to assume the command of the forces, a fresh distribution of the troops took place, and a Light Division, formed under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown, consisting of—

1st Brigade under Brigadier-General Richard Airey.	{	7th Royal Fusiliers. 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers. 33rd The Duke of Wellington's Regiment.
2nd Brigade under Brigadier-General George Buller, C.B.	{	19th Regiment. 77th Regiment. 88th Connaught Rangers.

2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade not brigaded, reporting direct to the General of Division.

The purchase of bât horses was now the main object, and by the exertions of the officers they were soon procured, although at very high prices for Turkey. The other preparations for taking the field were also completed without delay. It having been determined at this period, that the regiment should be entirely armed with the Minie rifled muskets, the percussion firelocks were delivered into store at Constantinople on the 25th May, and the new arms issued the same day.

On the 29th of May the Light Division embarked for Varna, and sailed in an hour afterwards.

At an early hour on the 31st May the regiment disembarked in the boats of H.M.S. "Bellerophon" and of a French line of battle ship, and encamped on the extreme

left of the division about two miles outside the town. In the immediate neighbourhood were numerous French troops, including a regiment of Zouaves, under Major-General Canrobert, and the Egyptian contingent, which contributed to the bustle and excitement of the scene.

The Light Division remained at Varna until the 5th of June, on which day it marched to Aladyn, a small village about 10 miles from Varna, where it encamped in the middle of a charming wooded country. The Division continued at this encampment until the 30th of June; and among other incidents connected with its stay here was a review of the troops by Major-General Canrobert, commanding the French troops (in the absence of Marshal de St. Arnaud), who came from Varna for that purpose, with Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown. The admixture of the French and English staffs had a very pleasing effect; and not the least novel part of the scene was that whilst the advanced portion of the escort was composed of the 8th Hussars, the rear guard consisted of a party of French Carabiniers. The cortège was warmly received at the camp, and at the close of the day, the regiments in succession took off their caps and cheered our allies lustily.

On the 30th of June, the division struck tents, and continued its march to the heights near Devna, about eight miles beyond Aladyn and 28 from Schoumla.

July 4th.—The Light Division was inspected by Omar Pacha.

July 6th.—The 77th Regiment furnished a guard of honour over Omar Pacha whilst he dined with Sir George Brown. The band of the regiment attended and played during dinner. The Pacha was pleased to express himself much gratified with the performance.

July 21st.—The cholera attacked the Light Division and carried off several men in a few hours.

July 22nd.—The cholera still on the increase.

July 23rd.—The cholera increasing rapidly through the division; upwards of eighty men died to-day. The 77th Regiment as yet remained untouched.

July 24th.—Struck tents at daylight, and marched to Monastir for the purpose of changing air and ground.

July 26th.—Ensign Massey arrived from England, with a draft of one hundred men. The first victim to cholera in the 77th Regiment died this morning, No. 1876 Private Richard Herrop.

July 27th.—The Light Division began to practise the duty of entrenching.

July 31st.—Ensign Massey died of cholera, after a few hours' illness.

August 1st.—In consequence of the spread of the cholera, the sale of wine in the canteens was prohibited and half a ration of rum issued to the troops daily instead.

August 9th.—The cholera still carrying off great numbers, the 77th Regiment struck tents, and marched to the high, open ground above Pravadi, where a wide camp was pitched.

August 12th.—Captain Dilke died of cholera.

The regiment was employed during its stay near Pravadi in constructing trenches and other siege works, also in making gabions and fascines. Rifle practice was carried on every day.

August 27th.—Struck tents and marched to the ground which had been previously occupied by the 2nd Division, *en route* to Varna, to embark for the Crimea.

August 28th.—Continued the march and encamped to the north-east of Aladyn.

August 29th.—Continued the march and encamped within two miles of Varna.

August 30th.—Marched to the south side of the Bay of

Varna and embarked on board H.M.S. "Magæra," a steam troopship.

September 5th.—Steamed up to Baltchick Bay and anchored.

September 7th.—Took our sailing transports in tow, and stood out with the whole fleet towards the Crimea.

September 10th and 11th.—The fleet at anchor in the Black Sea, out of sight of land, weather perfectly calm.

September 12th.—Stood on towards the Western Coast of the Crimea.

September 13th.—Anchored off Eupatoria, which surrendered, and was taken possession of by the allies. Weighed anchor at midnight and stood to the southward.

September 14th.—Landed at Old Fort, Kalamita Bay, with the Light Division, at about 9 o'clock a.m. The division met with no opposition whatever in landing, and was immediately formed up in contiguous columns at quarter distance, right in front, but the men were not allowed to load. Sir George Brown was nearly made a prisoner by some Cossacks whilst making a reconnaissance.

The whole of the infantry of both armies was got ashore without any loss.

The Light Division marched to the southward at about 4 o'clock p.m. and bivouacked at about six miles from the landing place and 26 miles to the north of Sebastopol. The First Division came up in an hour afterwards and took up a position on our left. During the night the 2nd Division came up and occupied ground in our rear. The French army was on our right. The whole of the baggage and tents were left on board ship; the troops lay down, in the open air, exposed to heavy rain during the night.

September 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th.—Remained on the same ground without seeing the enemy.

September 19th.—Marched at daylight towards Sebas-

topol, and crossed the Bulganac at about 2 o'clock p.m. The men suffered severely from thirst during the day, and the division was halted on the south side of the river to refresh them. They were soon ordered to stand to their arms, and advanced to the crest of the heights of the Bulganac, where they were drawn up in a line of contiguous columns, right in front, at quarter distance, supported by the 2nd Division.

A skirmish was going on, on the sloping ground in our front, between our cavalry and that of the enemy, supported by a battery of artillery. A battery of our Horse Artillery came up and opened a well-directed fire on the enemy, who immediately limbered up and retired.

We bivouacked on the heights of the Bulganac that night.

September 20th.—Under arms at daylight in the morning.

The Light Division marched about a mile and a half to the right of the ground they had occupied during the night where they halted, piled arms, and lay down for about two hours. They then stood to their arms and advanced in double column of companies from the centre, covered by the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, and commenced their march to the Alma.

As we approached the river, we saw the enemy drawn up in a strongly entrenched position on the opposite heights, and we computed his force to be from fifty to sixty thousand men.

His shot began to fall thickly among us at 2 o'clock p.m., when Sir George Brown halted the division and deployed into line. The village of Bourliouk, which was in front of our right, had been set on fire by the enemy, and, at this time, was blazing fiercely. The enemy appeared to

have the range accurately, for every shot fell near or amongst us.

We were ordered to advance to an old wall, on our left of the burning village, and to lie down and shelter ourselves, as well as we could, from the fire of the Russians. There we had remained for about twenty minutes, when we received orders to advance through the vineyards, and cross the river. This was done in good order under a heavy fire.

When the regiment advanced up the steep on the left bank of the river we had neither cavalry nor artillery to support us. Being the left battalion of the Light Division, our left flank was totally uncovered, and we found ourselves in the presence of a heavy column of the enemy's infantry, which was about 500 yards in advance of our extreme left.

Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton immediately wheeled the light company to the left, and forming No. 7 upon it to protect our flank, he opened a heavy and effective fire, with these two companies, upon the Russian column.

In about an hour after we had crossed the river the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division came up to our assistance, upon which the Russian column immediately retired, and the left brigade of the Light Division received orders to advance.

The victory was won, for the French had turned the left flank of the enemy, and were sweeping the Russians in every direction from off the heights on the right, while the English were advancing and forcing them from their position on the centre and left.

At 4 o'clock p.m. the Light Division stood triumphant on the heights of the Alma, and saw the Russian army, an unseemly mob of fugitives, with troops of all arms mixed together, crowding the road to Sebastopol.

The loss of the regiment in this battle was small, amounting only in killed and wounded to twenty. No officer killed.

20th of September, 1854.—Extract from Regimental Orders dated 20th September, 1854. "Heights of the Alma."

"The regiment will bivouac upon ground which will be pointed out by the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Division."

"No fires or lights to be suffered on the reverse flank on account of the artillery ammunition being stowed in that quarter."

"Nominal returns of the killed and wounded in the action of this day to be rendered without delay."

"The arms and accoutrements of non-effectives will be handed over to the Commissary of Ordnance, at Headquarters."

"The service ammunition to be completed the first thing in the morning."

"Parties will be sent out to-morrow, of the strength detailed by the Assistant Adjutant-General, to assist in burying the dead on the field of battle."

"Advantage to be taken of the halt, for the men to wash their persons and linen in the river."

21st and 22nd of September, 1854.—Bivouacked on the Heights of Alma.

September 23rd.—Marched at daylight towards the Katzcha.

Crossed that river and bivouacked on the heights to the south of it.

The general order, thanking the army for its conduct at the Alma, was read this day to the Light Division.

September 24th.—Crossed the Belbec, and bivouacked within a few miles of the north side of Sebastopol.

September 25th.—Marched through the woods to the south-east and arrived at midday at McKenzie's Farm, where the advance of the English army came in collision with the rear guard of a Russian army which was marching to Simpheropol. The enemy fled without making any resistance, leaving an immense quantity of ammunition and baggage in the hands of the English. The carriage of Prince Mentschicoff, the Russian Commander-in-Chief, was taken, and the Prince himself had a narrow escape of being made a prisoner.

The enemy's ammunition was immediately blown up.

The Light Division continued its march, and, descending the heights of McKenzie's farm into the Valley of the Tchernaya, crossed that river at Tractir Bridge, and bivouacked on the heights above it.

September 26th.—Marched for Balaclava.

The division was halted about two miles from the town, and the men were ordered to take off the blankets which held their kits. The 1st Brigade was then directed to take possession of the heights on the right side of the harbour, and the 2nd Brigade marched up, left in front, to attack the castle on the left side.

The 77th Regiment was in advance, and having lined the steep above the castle, which completely commanded it, they opened a heavy fire on the Russian gunners, who made a stout defence for about twenty-five minutes. A battery of English Horse Artillery came up, and fired several rounds at the castle, and H.M.S. "Agamemnon" was sending her shot and shell into it from outside the harbour.

At last the Governor hung out a white flag, and the firing ceased. Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton went down with the Light Company of the regiment to take posses-

sion of the castle, and the Governor surrendered his sword to him.

Lord Raglan shortly after rode into Balaclava and declared that the four mortars with which the Russians had defended the castle were the lawful prize of the 77th Regiment. Some prisoners were taken, but most of the garrison made their escape by crossing the harbour to a place which was afterwards called Cossack Bay.

Captain Crofton died of cholera and was buried in the plain of Balaclava.

The Light Division bivouacked outside the town of Balaclava.

September 27th and 28th.—Bivouacked near Balaclava.

September 29th.—Marched to within two miles of Sebastopol on the south-west side, near Colonel Upton's house, which was occupied by one of our advanced picquets.

September 30th.—Remained on the same ground.

October 1st.—The French and English armies changed places. The Light Division marched to the ground which it occupied till the end of the war, with its left resting on the Woronzoff Road, below the picquet house hill, and its right upon the ravine near the windmill.

Enemy firing heavily on us, but without effect.

October 2nd and 3rd.—Enemy firing on us heavily from their shipping.

October 4th.—Enemy firing heavily on us.

Lieutenant Walmsley died to-day of cholera on board the "Medway" transport. He was buried at the head of Balaclava Harbour.

October 5th.—Got up a few of our tents, enemy still firing heavily on us.

October 6th, 7th, and 8th.—Enemy firing heavily on us.

October 9th.—Moved our camp 300 yards to the rear to get out of the range of the enemy's guns.

October 10th.—The regiment on duty all night in the Middle Ravine.

October 11th.—Broke ground at night for the first parallel.

October 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th.—Settled before Sebastopol for the siege, the regiment taking its turn of all duties, such as working parties, covering parties to the workmen, outlying picquets, etc., etc.

October 16th.—The whole regiment on duty in the first parallel at Green Hill. At noon the Russians ran up a red flag at the Bastion du Mat, which was answered by every battery along the whole line of fortifications of Sebastopol. They then poured in a terrible fire on us of every description of missile for twenty-five minutes, but without doing us much harm, for only nine men were hit in the whole of Chapman's battery and the adjacent trenches. Our guns were all ready to open next morning, and the batteries masked, and no doubt the enemy thought that we would answer his fire, but he was mistaken. As yet we had not fired a single shot at Sebastopol.

October 17th.—The regiment was relieved from trench duty before daylight, and fire was opened by the allies against Sebastopol at about half-past six o'clock a.m.

Our cannonade was very effective. The round tower was soon destroyed, though the earthwork batteries around it were not silenced. Between 1 and 2 o'clock a large magazine blew up in the centre of Sebastopol, and between 2 and 3 o'clock another Russian magazine blew up in the Redan. An explosion also took place near the remains of the round tower between 3 and 4 o'clock. Towards evening our fire was superior to that of the enemy, and at

dark the Russian guns were silenced. Our fire then ceased.

The fleet attacked Fort Constantine, but we could not hear of the results.

October 18th.—The cannonade was resumed early this morning. The Russians' fire was superior to ours during the day, but our loss, nevertheless, was very small.

Received intelligence this day that Lieutenant Alder had died at Scutari on the 6th inst.

October 19th.—The cannonade was continued to-day. At 3 o'clock we observed a fire in Sebastopol, but it was soon put out.

October 20th.—Cannonade continued.

October 21st.—Cannonade continued without much effect, for the enemy repairs in the night all the damage done to his earthworks during the day. We saw two fires in Sebastopol to-day.

October 22nd.—A heavy cannonade going on all day, and skirmishing with our sharpshooters, who are sent forward to keep down the fire of the enemy's batteries.

They killed and wounded several Russians to-day, and took some prisoners. One officer was brought into our camp shot through the jaws. He was unable to speak, and was placed in the old post house, on the Woronzoff Road, for medical treatment.

October 23rd.—Cannonade all day.

October 24th.—We hear that the Russians are in a very bad state, and that the town is much damaged by our fire; however, they have more guns than we have, and their fire is superior to ours.

October 25th.—Heard a heavy cannonade in our rear, and we were informed that a Russian army was attacking Balaclava. We could see nothing whatever of what was going on, for we were called to arms immediately.

The Fourth Division was marched down to the plains of Balaclava, and the 77th Regiment was ordered up to Cathcart's Hill to take charge of their camp. We remained there all day, and heard that our heavy dragoons had completely defeated the enemy's cavalry, but that our light cavalry had been nearly annihilated. The Russians did not succeed in forcing the position.

The 77th Regiment sent 300 men as a working party into the trenches of the left attack to-night.

There was great cheering in Sebastopol. The Russians opened a heavy cannonade on our trenches, and they were throwing bright balls at us all night.

October 26th.—A strong body of the enemy made an attack on our right to-day, but they were repulsed with great slaughter by the Second Division, under Sir De Lacy Evans. The 19th and 77th Regiments were out together to watch the middle ravine, but they took no other share in the combat.

We are losing men every day by sickness and in the trenches.

October 27th.—Cannonade not so heavy as usual. During the night a great number of horses, with cavalry accoutrements on, but without riders, galloped through our camp. Nobody knew where they came from, but about two hundred of them were caught, and found to be the horses of Russian dragoons. An officer secured one and found a good supply of clean linen, etc., etc., in the valise, which had evidently belonged to a Russian officer. He was not allowed to keep the horse. They were all taken for the public service.

October 28th.—A despatch from the Duke of Newcastle thanking the army in the Queen's name for their conduct at the Battle of the Alma was published to-day. A copy of Lord Raglan's despatch regarding the battle has also

been seen in the newspapers from England. Everybody is gratified with it, and the army considers that full justice has been done them. Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton and all the officers commanding regiments in the Light Division have been honourably mentioned.

The cannonade going on as usual. A body of Turks came up and encamped in rear of the Light Division.

October 29th.—Cannonade going on as usual.

October 30th.—The same.

October 31st.—Very little fire from our batteries to-day. The weather is very cold and sickness increasing.

November 1st.—The cannonade going on as usual. The French are firing very sharply on the left.

November 2nd.—The Russians opened an unusually heavy fire on our trenches this morning. We did not quicken our fire, but the cannonade went on as usual.

November 3rd.—The French are firing heavy guns into the town, and doing great damage to the buildings.

November 4th.—The cannonade going on as usual, one of the outlying picquets of the Light Division reported to-night that they heard the sound of wheels coming out of Sebastopol, and approaching their position, but nothing was thought of it. It rained heavily during the night.

November 5th.—The Light Division was called to arms before daylight this morning. There was a heavy cannonade and a sharp firing of musketry going on, on our right, on the heights of Inkerman.

The 88th Regiment was immediately marched off towards the combat, and in about ten minutes after the 77th Regiment was ordered to follow. The regiment only consisted of the four companies of the right wing, as the four companies of the left wing were either on outlying picquet or on duty in the trenches. We did not take the

colours with us, for we could spare no officers to carry them.

The following officers were present in the battle:— Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton, Majors Straton and Dixon, Captains Willis and Nicholson, Lieutenants Acton and Lempriere, Ensign and Adjutant Morgan, and Assistant Surgeon Humphrey.

The regiment was marched off by fours right in front. As we passed through the camp of the Second Division we came under a heavy fire of the enemy's artillery. The tents were down, the horses killed at their pickets, and the camp was a scene of ruin and desolation.

We moved on through the camp to take up our position on the left of the Second Division, which was then hotly engaged. The regiment was wheeled to the right under a slight inequality of the ground, halted, fronted, and dressed in line. Brigadier-General Buller, C.B., Captain Clifford, his A.D.C., and Captain Glynn, the brigade-major, were with the regiment at this moment.

We advanced to the crest of the rising ground, and found ourselves in the presence of an enormous column of the enemy's infantry, who were coming on with loud shouts, evidently flushed with success, and thinking that they were about to carry the camp of the Second Division.

We came like an apparition among them, but their numbers were so great that they were soon swarming round our flanks, and crowding in our rear. The front of the column was not five yards from us when Colonel Egerton gave the word "Give them one volley on the knee and load." The men dropped on the knee, and poured a close volley into them with great precision. The Minie bullets tore through their heavy column from front to rear, and shook them to their centre.

Our men rose up and loaded their rifles with as much

steadiness as if they were on parade. Colonel Egerton then gave the words "Prepare to Charge"—"Charge."

The regiment rushed forward with a loud cheer, and threw themselves like tigers upon the enemy. The Russians met the attack bravely, crossing their bayonets with ours with the most determined resolution. A desperate contest ensued, but soon terminated in our favour, for the enemy could not stand the fury of our men.

The mass began to waver and reel; their muskets went up into the air, and they fairly turned and fled, impeded in their flight by the rear divisions of their own column. Then a terrible scene of slaughter took place, for our men plied them fiercely both with fire and steel; and driving them through the oak copses in our front they sent the broken remains of their shattered column headlong down a small ravine, about 450 yards from where the fight commenced.

The regiment halted here and dressed by the centre.

A pretty large body of Russians had assembled in our rear, so we were faced to the right about and moved towards them, while the enemy's artillery, apparently regardless of their own people, were throwing shot, shell, and grape among us in every direction. When we approached the infantry we again levelled our bayonets and charged them; they made no resistance to speak of, but fled round our flanks, for we were very weak, and quite unsupported.

Thus we had won the ground we had fought for. It was never relinquished during the day.

Captain Nicholson was killed in the first charge, while bravely leading on his company, and we lost several valuable non-commissioned officers and men.

We here heard the news that Sir George Brown had been carried off the field dangerously wounded.

The enemy had an immense number of heavy guns in position, which never ceased firing on us during the day, except when his columns of infantry were advancing to the charge. They were invariably defeated and driven back with slaughter. The fire from our Minie rifles tore their columns to pieces at a distance which rendered their smooth bored muskets useless, and it is said that they were glad to advance and try conclusions with the bayonet, to escape from the volleys which were destroying them by hundreds.

Brigadier-General Buller had two horses killed under him, and being wounded himself he was forced to quit the field.

Lieutenant-Colonel Egerton rode up to Brigadier-General Pennefather and said: "Sir George Brown and General Buller are wounded, and there is no one left to command the Light Division; I beg to place the remains of the 77th Regiment under your command and at your disposal." The General answered: "Occupy that height on your right; it has been thrice crowned by the enemy, and thrice they have been driven back with the bayonet. I have not a single man of my division left to defend it, and Seventy-Seventh, my old friends, my last hope is in you."

We had not a cartridge left, but the regiment was immediately moved up, and lay down in line, under the crest of the height.

Presently a battery of French artillery came up. We made gaps in our line for their eight guns, and they opened a well directed fire, which was responded to promptly and fiercely by the enemy. A few minutes after the French guns had opened, the 7th French Regiment of the Line appeared, and taking up a position on our right lay down in line with us. This cheered us greatly, for we said that our Allies had come to our assistance, and it was reported

through the regiment that the French were attacking the left flank of the Russians in force and turning it.

In the meantime the shot and shell of the enemy were ploughing through our ranks, and killing the horses and gunners of the French artillery. But well and faithfully those gallant men did their duty, and never ceased their fire till they had expended their last cartridge, when they were obliged to limber up and retire for more ammunition.

The joyful news now came that the enemy's infantry was retreating, covered by his artillery which, still in the same position, continued to pour its iron hail upon us with undiminished fury.

At this period Lieutenant Acton was detached with one company to assist in defending a wall, which had been built across the road from the valley of Inkerman. When he arrived there were two Russian guns on a neighbouring height, firing grape into the English troops which were stationed at the wall. Lieutenant Acton was ordered to charge the guns along with the remains of three companies of the 49th Regiment. This was done immediately. The men had to pass over about 150 yards of ground before they reached the guns, and as they were advancing the Russians fired three rounds of grape into them. The enemy did not wait for the English infantry, but went off with his guns at a gallop, leaving a great quantity of ammunition, his limbers, and several wounded horses behind him. The ammunition was blown up and the limbers destroyed.

Whilst this was going on the ammunition pomies of the Light Division came up to the remainder of the regiment, and each man's pouch was filled. We were then moved down to our left to protect a battery of English artillery which was firing on the retreating Russians. When we reached them they had only three rounds left; this was soon

expended, and the battery limbered up and retired. The enemy's artillery was still firing at us, but in about half an hour the cannonade grew fainter, and soon after it died away. The Russian infantry had got into Sebastopol under cover of their guns, and the artillery were in full retreat after them.

Though the left wing was not actually in the battle, yet they suffered from the fire, from the position of Inkerman, and the increased fire from the fortifications of Sebastopol.

The Russians made a heavy sortie on the French trenches, but they were driven back with great slaughter, and the French followed them almost into the town.

In the Battle of Inkerman the right wing of the 77th Regiment lost one officer killed and 59 non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded.

It was evening when we returned to our camp, having been relieved on the field of battle by an English regiment which had taken part in the action. Lord Raglan met the 77th Regiment near the windmill, and rode at its head for some time conversing with Colonel Egerton on indifferent subjects. He never alluded to the events of the day, and did not seem in the least elated.

The regiment wore great-coats at Inkerman; it was a rainy, misty day. They left the camp without their breakfast, and they had not a morsel to eat during the whole of the day.

November 6th.—The Light Division called to arms. A report having been spread that the enemy was coming out of Sebastopol to attack us. This was not true.

The remains of Captain Nicholson were buried to-day along with those of 20 non-commissioned officers and men who fell gloriously in the action of yesterday. We could not find any more of the dead, though the field of battle was carefully searched for them.

November 8th.—Captain Pechell joined to-day.

November 14th.—The camp was blown down by a hurricane this morning, which came from the south-east, accompanied by sleet and snow. Our loss was very great, and the sick suffered severely, for their tents were blown away.

The "Prince" steamer was wrecked at Balacclava to-day. She had on board our warm clothing for the winter, and, among other things, 750 pairs of trousers were lost.

A heavy cannonade to-night. The division turned out as usual and marched up to the picquet house hill. It was a sortie against the French lines. The enemy was beaten back.

November 21st.—Lieutenant Maine died in camp to-day of fever.

November 29th.—A draft from England consisting of Captain Rickman, Ensign Knight, Ensign Long, two sergeants, and one hundred rank and file arrived at Balacclava to-day.

November 30th.—The cannonade was not so heavy generally as it used to be, but there was heavy firing on the French to-day.

It is said that the Grand Duke Michael made a reconnaissance of our position to-day.

Sickness is on the increase. The weather is very bad, our clothes are all worn out, and provisions are very scarce.

December 2nd.—The Russians made a sortie on our trenches. They were beaten back without doing us much harm. There is no means of transport between Balacclava and the front. We send a hundred men down daily to carry up provisions for the following day.

Both officers and men are on very short allowance, and there is no fuel to cook the little food we have with us or to roast the green coffee.

December 20th.—The Russians made a sortie on our

trenches. They carried some of our advanced works in the first instance, but were speedily beaten back.

December 31st.—During this month a copy of Lord Raglan's despatch regarding the Battle of Inkerman arrived in the Crimea.

Colonel Egerton and Majors Straton and Dixon were mentioned in it for "distinguished service in the field," and the two latter officers were promoted in consequence to the rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel, dated 12th December, 1854.

General Sir George Brown, G.C.B., the General of the Light Division, was removed during this month from the colonelcy of the 77th Regiment, to the great regret of everyone in it. He was succeeded by Lieutenant-General George Leigh Goldie, C.B., dated 22nd December, 1854.

January 15th.—The Russians made a sortie **1855.** up the Woronzoff Road, and on our right and left attack. They were driven back after an hour's hard fighting.

January 17th.—The remainder of our bât horses, which were left at Varna, have arrived. They are of great use bringing up supplies.

January 24th.—The French took over all the picquets and redoubts at Inkerman. The Second Division was sent to take trench duty in the right attack, and to assist the Light Division.

January 25th.—Lieutenant Richards arrived with a draft of 250 men.

January 27th.—Completed the first of our wooden huts to-day, and gave it over as a hospital.

January 28th.—The Russians made a sortie on the French, but they were repulsed after hard fighting with great slaughter.

January 31st.—It is said that a Russian spy walked

through our trenches to-day in the disguise of a French officer. He counted the guns, and having obtained the information he wanted he slipped off down the Woronzoff Road under a heavy fire of musketry, through which he escaped apparently unhurt.

February 4th.—The Russians made a sortie on our trenches before daylight, but were beaten back. No damage done.

February 12th.—Sir George Brown returned to-day, and resumed the command of the Light Division.

February 24th.—Lieutenant the Honourable John Colborne, with a draft of 52 men, arrived from England.

March 1st.—Commenced more active siege operations.

March 6th.—Heard of the death of the Emperor Nicholas. The enemy fired unusually heavily on us.

March 10th.—The Russians commenced the redoubt on the Mamelon.

March 11th, 12th, and 13th.—All the Light Division out as working and covering parties, constructing new trenches from the old advance work to the middle ravine.

Suffering severe loss.

March 14th.—The enemy made a sortie to drive us out of our new works, but he was beaten back.

March 22nd.—The Russians made a heavy sortie on the French works near the Mamelon, and on our right attack. They penetrated into our works as far as the right mortar battery and the ditch of the eight gun battery, but they were driven back at the point of the bayonet, with great slaughter on both sides. The fighting was going on all night along the whole of the trenches.

Sir George Brown was pleased to express his satisfaction at the admirable way the 77th Regiment behaved in this sortie, and Captain Rickman, who commanded the party, was mentioned in Lord Raglan's despatch for "dis-

tinguished service in the field," and promoted to the rank of brevet-major, dated 24th March, 1855.

March 24th.—An armistice to bury the dead. The enemy appears to have lost about six times as many as both French and English put together. The Russian officers conversed with great civility with their enemies. They were much better dressed than our officers. The moment the white flags were hauled down the firing re-commenced on both sides.

March 31st.—The establishment of the regiment having been increased, the following promotion appeared in the "London Gazette," viz : Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Jocelyn Straton to be lieutenant-colonel without purchase, dated 9th March, 1855.

April 2nd.—The Russians made a sortie to interrupt our working parties in the right attack. They were beaten back.

April 9th.—A heavy fire was opened at daylight from all our guns and mortars.

The French also opened fire from all their guns.

There were 386 pieces of ordnance in the French and English attacks.

April 11th.—Surgeon Macartney, M.B., died in camp to-day.

April 13th.—The Russians made two sorties on the French to-night. They were beaten back each time with great loss on both sides.

April 14th.—The renewed fire from our batteries, which commenced on the 9th inst., is now reduced to an occasional shot.

The French have gained about fifty yards of ground to the front, but we have gained nothing by the bombardment.

April 19th.—A party of the regiment under the command of Colonel Egerton, consisting of Captain Gilby, Cap-

tain Chawner, Captain Lempriere, Lieutenant Knight, Lieutenant Long, and 250 men, was ordered into the advanced trenches of the right attack for the purpose of taking two rifle pits from the enemy.

The party took up a position in the left boyeau of the old advanced works between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and waited there till Colonel Egerton considered it sufficiently dark to attack the pits, which were not more than fifteen yards from the boyeau.

When the proper time had arrived the party advanced rapidly to the nearest and largest pit, and firing one volley they rushed into it, and drove the Russians out, after a desperate resistance, at the point of the bayonet.

The second pit was captured as quickly.

The party then advanced about fifty yards and lay down in skirmishing order to protect the pits, while the Engineers connected them with the left boyeau.

For three hours the enemy kept up a terrible fire, of all arms, upon our men. Captain Lempriere fell mortally wounded. Colonel Egerton lifted him up, carried him into the boyeau, and then immediately returned to his party.

Towards the morning the enemy had organised a strong column of infantry, which advanced to endeavour to retake the pits. As they approached the 77th Regiment, the men sprung to their feet, and both parties charged each other with the bayonet. The Russians were beaten back, but they rallied and returned to the charge again. Again they were driven back with greater slaughter than before, and again they renewed the attack, but with no better success, till at last, completely defeated, they retired within their works, leaving the 77th masters of the field.

At this moment, as Colonel Egerton was pointing out the flying Russians to Captain Chawner, he was struck in the

mouth by a rifle bullet, which, carrying away four of his front teeth, passed through the spine at the back of the neck, and he fell dead.

April 20th.—The rifle pits were fully connected and fortified this morning, and the Army commenced the fourth parallel.

April 21st.—The remains of Colonel Egerton, Captain Lempriere, and six men of the 77th, who fell gloriously at the taking of the rifle pits, were buried to-day in the graveyard of the regiment, on the left of the Woronzoff Road near the Picquet House. Lord Raglan and his staff, General George Brown, and most of the generals and officers of rank in the Army, attended the funeral.

Lieutenant-Colonel Straton, who was absent on sick leave, succeeded to the command of the regiment, and Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon succeeded to the second-lieutenant-colonelcy.

April 29th.—The first message was received from England to-day by electric telegraph in seventeen hours and a half.

May 9th.—The first division of the Sardinian Army arrived.

May 10th.—The Russians made a sortie on our lines before daylight this morning, but they were beaten back with great slaughter.

May 11th.—The Russians made another sortie on the left attack last night; they were again beaten back with great slaughter.

May 21st.—The second expedition for Kertch embarked.

May 25th.—The Allies made a general advance and took up the line of the Tcherraya.

June 6th.—Opened fire from all our batteries. The Allies had 457 guns and mortars in position.

June 7th.—The Mamelon and the Sapoune redoubts taken by the French.

The quarries and the rifle pits in front of the Redan taken by the English. The Russians returned six times during the night in great force to retake them, and six times they were beaten back with great slaughter, and pursued close up to the Redan, which at that time had but few defenders.

June 8th.—Cannonade going on.

June 9th.—Heavy cannonade going on. The French began to fire a few shots from the Mamelon at the enemy. The Russians hoisted two white flags, and asked for an armistice to bury the dead. It was granted from 1 to 6 o'clock p.m.

June 17th.—Opened a heavy fire at daylight, which was continued during the day.

A draft consisting of Lieutenants Simpson and Dodd, one sergeant, and 50 rank and file arrived from Malta to-day.

June 18th.—Sebastopol assaulted by the Allies. The English attacking the Redan. The assault was unsuccessful.

June 24th.—The Adjutant-General of the Army, Major-General Estcourt, died of cholera to-day.

June 28th.—The Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, G.C.B., died of cholera to-day.

“Morning General Orders.”

Head Quarters before Sebastopol,

June 29th, 1855.

No. 1.—It becomes my most painful duty to announce to the Army the death of its beloved Commander, Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, G.C.B., which melancholy event took place last night at about 9 o'clock.

No. 2.—In the absence of Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown the command of the troops devolves on me, as the next senior officer present, until further orders are received from England.

No. 3.—Generals of Divisions and Heads of Departments will be pleased to conduct their respective duties as heretofore.

(Sd.) J. SIMPSON, Lieutenant-General.

The last notice Lord Raglan issued to the Army was on the day of his death, viz. :—

“The Field-Marshal has the satisfaction of publishing to the Army the following extract from a telegraph despatch from Lord Panmure dated 22nd June.

“‘I have Her Majesty’s commands to express her grief that so much bravery should not have been rewarded with merited success, and to assure her brave troops that Her Majesty’s confidence in them is entire.’”

Towards the end of June, Sir George Brown resigned the command of the Light Division and returned to England. He was succeeded by Major-General Codrington.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon, completely broken down in health by hardships and severe duty in the trenches, was obliged to embark for England on sick leave about the 28th June, 1855.

July 5th.—Lieutenant-Colonel Straton returned from sick leave, and assumed the command of the regiment to-day.

August 30th.—For the trenches this evening, four captains, four subalterns, 20 sergeants, and 505 rank and file.

Fifty men of the above party were sent forward under Captain Pechell to a boyeau which was being constructed at right angles to the fifth parallel under the proper left face of the Redan.

About two hundred Russians made a sortie, to drive the workmen away from the boyeau. They had nearly succeeded in their attempt when Captain Pechell at the head of his party charged them with the bayonet, and after an obstinate contest he defeated them, and recovered some gabions which they had taken. The Russians were handled so roughly in this encounter that they did not return during the night, and Captain Pechell held the boyeau, under a severe fire, till morning, when he was relieved by a party of the 97th Regiment.

This was considered such a gallant feat of arms that Captain Pechell was honourably mentioned by the Commander-in-Chief in his despatches for his conduct on the occasion, and, no doubt he would have been promoted to the rank of brevet-major had he lived, but most unfortunately for the regiment and the Service, he was killed on the very same spot four nights after.

September 3rd.—For the trenches this evening, 4 captains, 5 subalterns, 20 sergeants, and 500 rank and file.

When this party arrived in the trenches the General in Command was very anxious to have some sentries posted in advance of the boyeau, which Captain Pechell had defended so gallantly a few nights before.

Captain Pechell immediately volunteered that duty, and his services were accepted. He went out with a sergeant and four double sentries, hoping to gain the shelter of an old wall for his men, before the enemy occupied it, for the night; but the Russians were there before him, and as the English party approached they fired one volley, which killed Captain Pechell, Sergeant Laughlin, and two men, and wounded three others.

The enemy held the wall and an adjacent rifle pit for the night.

September 5th.—All the allied batteries opened fire on Sebastopol at daylight.

The fire from the English batteries had been kept up with great steadiness since the 17th August. The English had two hundred and four guns and mortars, and, it is said that the French had upwards of four hundred. The cannonade was as rapid as the file firing of a line of infantry.

The remains of Captain Pechell and his brave comrades were buried to-day.

A Russian frigate was burnt to-night.

September 6th.—Cannonade going on with great fury.

September 7th.—Cannonade going on with the same fury. Another Russian ship was burnt.

September 8th.—The cannonade going on with greater fury than ever, till about noon, when the general assault upon Sebastopol was delivered.

The part the Light Division took in this assault cannot be better described than in the following extracts from the despatch of the Commander-in-Chief, dated

“ Before Sebastopol,

“ September 9th.

“ My Lord,

“ I had the honour to apprise your Lordship in my despatch of the 4th inst. that the engineer and artillery officers of the allied armies had laid before General Pelissier and myself a report recommending that the assault should be given on the 8th inst., after a heavy fire had been kept up for three days.

“ This arrangement I agreed to, and I have to congratulate your Lordship on the glorious results of the attack yesterday, which has ended in the possession of the town,

dockyards, and public buildings, and destruction of the last ships of the Russian Fleet in the Black Sea.

“Three steamers alone remain, and the capture or sinking of these must speedily follow.

“It was arranged that at twelve o'clock in the day the French columns of assault were to leave their trenches and take possession of the Malakoff and adjacent works.

“After their success had been assured and they were fairly established, the Redan was to be assaulted by the English. The Bastion Centrale and Quarantine Forts on the left were simultaneously to be attacked by the French.

“At the hour appointed our allies quitted the trenches, entered and carried the apparently impregnable defences of the Malakoff, with that impetuous valour which characterises the French attack, and having once obtained possession they were never dislodged.

“The tricolour planted on the parapet was the signal for our troops to advance.

“I determined that the Second and Light Division should have the honour of the assault, from the circumstance of their having defended the batteries and approaches against the Redan for so many months, and from the intimate knowledge they possessed of the ground.

“It was arranged that the assaulting column of 1,000 men should be formed by equal numbers of these two divisions, the column of the Light Division to lead, that of the Second to follow.

“They left the trenches at the preconcerted signal, and moved across the ground preceded by a covering party of 200 men, and a ladder party of 320.

“On arriving at the crest of the ditch, and the ladders being placed, the men immediately stormed the parapet of the Redan, and penetrated into the salient angle.

“A most determined and bloody contest was here main-

tained for nearly an hour, and although supported to the utmost, and the greatest bravery displayed, it was found impossible to maintain the position.

“Your Lordship will perceive by the long and sad list of casualties with what gallantry and self-devotion the officers so nobly placed themselves at the head of their men during this sanguinary conflict. I feel myself unable to express, in adequate terms, the sense I entertain of the conduct and gallantry of the troops.

“The evacuation of the town by the enemy was made manifest during the night. Great fires appeared in every part, accompanied by large explosions, under cover of which the enemy succeeded in withdrawing his troops to the north side, by means of the raft-bridge, recently constructed, and which they afterwards disconnected and conveyed to the other side.

“The men-of-war were all sunk during the night.

“It now becomes my pleasing duty, my Lord, to place on record the high sense I entertain of the conduct of this army since I have had the honour to command it.

“The hardships and privations endured by many of the regiments during a long winter campaign are too well known for me to comment upon.

“They were borne both by officers and men with a patience and unmurmuring endurance worthy of the highest praise, and which gained them the deserved applause and sympathy of their country.

“I have, etc., etc.,

“(Signed) JAMES SIMPSON,

“General Commanding.

“The Lord Panmure,

“Etc., etc., etc.”

The 77th Regiment lost in killed one captain, two colour-sergeants, three sergeants, and eighteen rank and file at the assault on the Redan, and had four officers and forty-two non-commissioned officers and men wounded.

We had to lament the death of that brave and excellent officer, Captain William Parker, who was shot through the neck with a musket ball, close to the ditch. Two valuable and efficient colour-sergeants, viz., Thomas Maher and John Fitzharris, who had served with the most determined resolution and endurance through the whole campaign, were also killed.

The names of the wounded officers are as follows, viz. :

Captain Frederick Butts.

Lieutenant George Leggett.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Marcus A. Waters.

Lieutenant Charles Knowles.

October 17th.—Kinburn taken by the allies, with seventy pieces of ordnance, and thirteen hundred prisoners.

The enemy still in great force on the north side of the harbour of Sebastopol and along the heights opposite Inkerman and McKenzie's ridge. They fire heavily upon our working parties, and picquets in Sebastopol—particularly at Fort Paul—and also send occasional shots across the valley of the Tchernaya.

Lieutenant Charles Ernest Knight died in camp on the 2nd of October, 1855.

November 12th.—Major-General Lord William Paulett, C.B., assumed the command of the Light Division.

November 15th.—The camp of the Light Division was thrown into some disorder by a great explosion of a French magazine, near the right siege train, containing, it is said, 30,000 kilogrammes of powder, 600,000 cartridges, 300 charged shells, and other projectiles.

This explosion caused a violent conflagration in our right siege train, and hurled death and destruction over the Royal Artillery, and the camp of the Light Division. The windmill, which was full of cartridges, took fire, and blazed fiercely for some time, but the flames were extinguished by parties of the 7th Fusiliers and the 2nd Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, who behaved with the greatest gallantry. The Light Division was immediately called to arms, as it was thought that the enemy would attack our position.

It is stated that the casualties in the Royal Artillery amounted to seventeen killed and thirty-five wounded.

December 15th.—Lieutenant Basil Browne died in camp to-day.

December 28th.—Major the Hon. Augustus Chichester joined the regiment to-day.

January.—During the siege the regiment was **1856.** increased to sixteen companies, which were distributed as follows, viz.: Eight service companies with the headquarters of the regiment before Sebastopol. Four companies formed the reserve at Malta, and four companies formed the depôt at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight.

The magnificent docks of Sebastopol were completely destroyed in January, 1856.

On the 15th January, 1856, the service companies of the regiment subscribed £52 8s. 6d. for the testimonial to Miss Nightingale.

February 4th.—Fort Nicholas was blown up to-day by an explosion of 120,000 lbs. of powder.

February 11th.—Fort Alexandet was blown up to-day by three explosions.

February 25th.—A grand review of a large portion of the British Army took place to-day near the Telegraph

Hill. Forty-six battalions of infantry were present. The troops marched past Marshal Pelissier and Sir William Codrington in open column, and afterwards in quarter distance column, upon different ground.

February 28th.—The white buildings were blown up to-day.

We heard that an armistice had been agreed upon.

February 29th.—Deputies from the Allied and Russian Armies met to-day at Tractir Bridge, and arranged a truce.

The following orders were issued to the army, viz. :—

“On 4th March, 1856.

“Pending discussions for the establishment of an armistice, by land, with the Russian forces, until the 31st March, there will be no firing on the part of the English army upon the enemy.

“Officers and all other persons connected with this army are positively ordered to make no attempt to pass any of the outposts of the Allied Armies.”

“On the 5th March, 1856.

“The line of the aqueduct, running along the left bank of the Tchernaya River, has been fixed as the line of demarcation, beyond which it is positively ordered that no officer or soldier shall pass except on special duty.

“The Commander of the Forces trusts to the military feeling of officers, and of all ranks, to respect the line of neutrality thus established; and calls upon them to moderate a very natural curiosity and to obey with alacrity the orders of the sentries posted by the French and Sardinian Armies.”

“On the 2nd April, 1856.

“The Treaty of Peace with Russia was signed on the 30th March at Paris.

“The present line of demarcation between the armies will continue to be strictly observed.”

The proclamation of peace was received by the British Army with a salute of one hundred and one guns, fired by the field batteries of the Light and Second Divisions.

On the 9th April, 1856, the following General Order was issued, viz. :—

“The English Army is no longer restricted from passing the Tchernaya. All officers are to be present in camp at night, and all non-commissioned officers and men to be present in camp at the usual roll calls, unless they are in possession of written passes from their commanding officers.”

April 17th.—The whole of the French and English Armies present in the Crimea were reviewed to-day by the Russian Commander-in-Chief, General Lüders, who was attended by a numerous staff.

The English Army was drawn up on the plateau in front of its own headquarters. General Lüders rode down the whole line, inspecting the troops with great attention, and appeared very much pleased with their appearance. He then took his place at the saluting flag, and the whole army, 37,000 strong, marched past him, the infantry being in quarter distance column right in front. There was only one regiment of cavalry, the 11th Hussars, present.

On the 29th April, 1856, the following General Order was issued, viz. :—

“It will be agreeable to the Army to know that it is the honourable wish and intention of the Russian Authorities to preserve scrupulously the burial places and monuments of those, our countrymen, who have died in the Crimea.

“The terms used in a despatch are, that the Imperial Government will consider this a sacred duty, and General Lüders, in an order to the Russian Army, mentions that he

is persuaded that after the evacuation of the positions occupied by the allies, all the troops which remain in the Crimea will regard with respect the tombs and monuments of those who have died on the field of battle."

May 1st.—Great preparations going on for the evacuation of the Crimea by the Allies.

June 1st.—The regiment still in camp before Sebastopol.

June 15th.—The regiment marched to Kazatch at daylight this morning, and embarked for England on board H.M.S. "Queen."

The loss of the regiment during the war was fifteen officers and eight hundred and ninety-seven non-commissioned officers and men.

The names of the officers who embarked at Kazatch on board the "Queen" are as follows, viz. :—

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Jocelyn Straton, C.B.

Major the Hon. A. G. C. Chichester.

Captain Henry Macdonald.

Captain Edward Chawner.

Captain Richard Willington.

Captain Frederick Butts.

Captain William Orpen.

Captain George Carden.

Captain the Hon. John Colborne.

Lieutenant H. M. L. Colquhoun.

Lieutenant George Leggett.

Lieutenant John Simpson.

Lieutenant and Adjutant M. A. Waters.

Lieutenant Charles Knowles.

Lieutenant Aubury Butts.

Lieutenant Charles Saunders.

Lieutenant Harcourt Bengough.

Paymaster William F. Scott.

Surgeon Edward Franklyn, M.D.

Assistant Surgeon Robert G. Burton, M.D.

Assistant Surgeon William Paleolojus.

Quartermaster Henry Blissett.

The strength of the regiment was 39 sergeants, 15 drummers, and 683 rank and file.

Two companies of the Royal Artillery, under the command of Brevet-Major Adye, two companies of the 42nd Highlanders, under command of Brevet-Major Graham, and the 90th Light Infantry, under the command of Colonel Campbell, C.B., embarked on board the "Queen" the same day, making, with the officers and crew of the ship, 2,500 persons.

The "Queen" sailed for England on the evening of the 15th June, 1856, in tow of H.M.S. "Terrible," and, touching at Constantinople, Malta, and Gibraltar, anchored at Spithead on the morning of the 23rd July, 1856, without a single death having occurred on the voyage.

The regiment was landed at noon, on the same day, at the Clarence Yard, Gosport, and proceeded by the South-Western Railway to the Farnborough Station; thence marched to the North Camp at Aldershot, and occupied huts.



CHAPTER VI.

1856—1898.

Inspection by the Queen at Aldershot—Move to Dublin—Embarkation for New South Wales—Sydney—Need of reinforcements in India—The Regiment ordered thither—Dum Dum—Fort William—Ordered up country—Halt at Sasseram—Headquarters proceed to Benares — The Regiment moves to Hazareebagh—To Allahabad—To Bareilly—Durbar at Agra—March to Peshawur—Outbreak of cholera—Move to Nowshera—Agra—Ordered home—Quartered at Portsmouth—Portland—Aldershot—Chatham—Presented with new colours by the Duke of Cambridge at Woolwich—Designated the “Duke of Cambridge’s Own”—Service in Ireland—For three years the best shooting regiment—Move to Dover—Embarkation for India—Madras and Bellary—Rangoon—Re-organization of the Infantry—The 77th becomes the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge’s Own (Middlesex Regiment)—Return to India—Secunderabad—Kamptee—March to Mhow—Move to Quetta — Expedition to Kelat — Headquarters move to Arnednagar—To Bombay — Return home after seventeen years’ foreign service—Quartered at Woolwich—The Duke of Cambridge appointed Colonel-in-Chief.

Her Majesty the Queen inspected a large
1856. portion of the Crimean army at Aldershot on the
30th July, and on the following day visited the
camp of the 77th, when the men were drawn up in line
according to the number of clasps to their medals. Her
Majesty, who was received with three hearty cheers as she
approached, walked down the ranks, speaking to several
non-commissioned officers and men with great kindness

and condescension, and was graciously pleased to express in very flattering terms the high sense she entertained of the distinguished gallantry with which the regiment had behaved on every occasion, as well as of its fortitude and endurance under hardships and privations.

While at Aldershot the regiment was reduced to twelve companies, the reserve companies from Malta arriving and being incorporated with the eight service companies. The depôt companies from Parkhurst also arrived at Aldershot and encamped near the service companies, but were not in any way intermixed with them.

The service companies left Aldershot on the 1st September and embarked at Liverpool for Dublin, where they took over quarters in the Richmond Barracks.

In June, 1857, the regiment embarked at **1857.** Kingstown on board the freight ships "Orwell" and "Palmerston" — headquarters under Lieutenant-Colonel Straton, C.B., on the former—for New South Wales. After a long and stormy voyage the two ships met off the Heads of Port Jackson on the 26th September, and on the 30th the 77th landed at Sydney and marched up to Victoria Barracks amid the cheers of thousands who had assembled to welcome the corps to New South Wales.

The regiment remained at Sydney till April, **1858.** 1858, and was then ordered to be in readiness for removal to Hong Kong. While, however, the transports were being surveyed, H.M.S. "Megæra" arrived from Calcutta with an urgent demand for the services of the 77th in India on account of the Sepoy mutiny. The destination was therefore changed, and the headquarters sailed for Calcutta in the "Megæra" on the 20th April, the remainder of the regiment following in the "Raby Castle" some days later.

The "Megæra" anchored off the Cooley Bazaar,

Calcutta, on the 11th June, and the regiment being ordered to Dum Dum, was transhipped into river steamers for conveyance to Cossipore.

It landed at Cossipore on the evening of the 13th June, and marched into barracks at Dum Dum on the 15th.

Lieutenant-Colonel Straton, C.B., who had commanded the regiment for the last three years and more, died of cholera the following morning at 2 a.m. Major the Hon. A. G. C. Chichester, the senior major, assumed the command.

On the 20th June the grenadier company, under Captain Willington, with Lieutenants Knowles and Bengough, marched into barracks at Fort William, Calcutta; and on the 25th the remainder of the regiment (with the exception of one company left at Dum Dum) followed to Calcutta, and occupied quarters in the Town Hall. The "Raby Castle" detachment had rejoined at Dum Dum on the 17th.

On the 6th July the whole regiment moved into barracks at Fort William, where it remained till the **1859**. following January, when it received orders to move up country to Allahabad.

The left wing, under Colonel Deverell (the second-lieutenant-colonel), left Calcutta on the 13th and proceeded by rail as far as Raneegunge, whence the journey was continued by bullock train. The headquarters followed on the 15th. While en route orders were received to halt at Sasseram (a place on the grand trunk road about 60 miles east of Benares), and the regiment accordingly marched into that station by detachments, the last arriving on the 29th January. The whole corps remained here till the 12th March, when the left wing, under Colonel Deverell, marched to Benares and occupied Raj Ghaut Fort there.

On the 1st April a party of the right wing, under Major Kent, was ordered out in pursuit of a body of rebels, who

had suddenly appeared on the grand trunk road, and proceeded into the Kymoor Hills. Owing, however, to want of water and transport difficulties, the detachment was unable to come up with the enemy, and returned to Sasseram on the 6th April. The rebels, having suddenly come down from the hills in the neighbourhood of Jelianabad, Major Kent's party was ordered out again at 2 a.m. next day, and marched to Jelianabad (16 miles from Sasseram), arriving there at 7 a.m. The same day they resumed their march, and continued in close pursuit of the rebels, until they had driven them on to the banks of the Ganges, where another column sent in pursuit cut them off. The 77th detachment returned to Sasseram on the 12th.

The headquarters of the regiment, with the band and staff, proceeded on the 20th July to Benares, the right wing, under Major Kent, remaining at Sasseram
1860. till it marched to relieve the 37th Regiment at Ghazepore on the 1st March, 1860.

Owing to the crowded state of the Raj Ghaut barracks, part of the left wing was detached, under Major Macdonald, first to Bandypore barracks and afterwards (in April, 1860), to Dehree Ghaut, on the River Soane, eleven miles east of Sasseram.

On the 8th December, the three different portions from Benares, Dehree Ghaut, and Ghazepore, having assembled at Baroon the previous day, the whole regiment marched, under Colonel Chichester, from the latter place (situated on the east bank of the River Soane) to Hazareebagh, where it arrived on the 17th of the month.

The regiment remained at this station till it
1862. marched in November, 1862, to Allahabad, the station it had been originally ordered to in 1859.

1863. It was inspected here by General Sir Hugh Rose, Commander-in-Chief in India, the following January.

After two years at Allahabad the regiment
1864. moved by rail to Cawnpore, and marched thence to Bareilly, arriving at that station on the 26th November, 1864.

On the 20th October, 1866, the regiment left
1866. Bareilly for Agra, detaching the strength of a company with the women and children and heavy baggage under Captain Weigall to Umballa. On arriving at Agra, on the 5th November, the 77th was brigaded with the 41st Regiment and the 8th Bengal N.I., and it remained there till the end of the month for duty during the Durbar held at Agra that year. Leaving Agra by rail the regiment made a brief halt at Delhi, and on the
1867. 5th December commenced its march to Peshawur, where it arrived on the 5th February, 1867, having been joined by Captain Weigall's party at Umballa.

On the 20th May cholera of a most malignant type broke out at Peshawur, and it continued to rage for several weeks with great severity, necessitating the removal of the 77th from camp to camp until the end of June, when it returned to quarters, having sustained a loss of one officer and 49 men. The following autumn the troops in Peshawur again became generally unhealthy from the great prevalence of the local fever. Europeans and natives were attacked alike, and the total number of admissions into the regimental hospital was 681.

The regiment left Peshawur on the 27th
1868. January, 1868, and arrived the following day at Nowshera. The following April a detachment, composed of volunteers from different companies, under Captain Leggett, was employed as a working party on the road between Abbotabad and Murree.

On the 13th June, Colonel Chichester, who had com-

manded the regiment since 1858, retired on half-pay, and was succeeded in the command by Major Kent.

Captain Leggett's detachment, which on the outbreak of hostilities on the Hazara frontier had been recalled to garrison Abbotabad, rejoined headquarters in November, and the following month the regiment began its march to

Agra, at which station it arrived on the 11th and
1869. 12th February, 1869. On the regiment's departure from his command Major-General O'Grady Haley, Commanding the Peshawur Division, wrote to express his regret at losing it, saying that "the efficiency in all respects and among all ranks, the good conduct, good interior economy, smartness, and the true and good feeling prevailing generally throughout the regiment must always make it an acquisition to any division of the Army in which it may be serving."

On the 19th January, 1870, in consequence of
1870. the reduction of the European forces in India, the 77th received sudden orders to return home, whereupon the obsolete Enfield rifles were given into store, and 117 volunteers transferred to regiments remaining in India.

The regiment, however, did not leave Agra till the 18th February, remaining there during the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived at the station on the 21st January, on which occasion the 77th furnished the guard of honour. Reduced to a total strength of 669, the 77th left Agra on the 18th February, travelling by rail as far as Jubbulpore, whence the journey to Nagpore was continued by bullock train. From Nagpore it proceeded by rail to Deolalee, where it arrived on the 13th March, and remained awaiting orders to embark.

The brigadier commanding at Agra issued a very flattering order on the regiment's departure, recording the

high opinion he entertained of "this excellent regiment," and asserting that the arrangements in the various regimental institutions for the comfort and happiness of the men were "unsurpassed by any regiment in the service."

The regiment embarked at Bombay on board H.M.S. "Jumna" on the 14th April, and arrived at Portsmouth on the 25th May, having been the first regiment to pass through the Suez Canal. It disembarked the same day, and took over quarters in the Clarence Barracks, where—the depôt under Captain Weigall, having arrived—the whole regiment was re-united as it had been in the same place on its return from Canada in 1848.

On its arrival the regiment was armed with the new Snider breech-loading rifle in place of the Enfield rifle given in at Agra. Under the new system of affiliating the depôts of regiments on foreign service to corps serving at home, which had been introduced on the breaking up of the old depôt battalions, the depôt of the 29th Regiment was attached to the 77th, and joined from Colchester.

After remaining a year and a half at Portsmouth the regiment proceeded on the 30th December, 1871, in H.M.S. "Simoon" to Portland, and occupied the Verne Citadel, three companies under Major Leggett being detached to Weymouth.

In August, 1872, the regiment furnished a guard of honour on the occasion of the laying the last stone of the Portland breakwater by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. It was a remarkable coincidence that this duty should have been performed by the 77th, as the regiment had furnished the guard in 1849, when the Prince Consort laid the *first* stone of the breakwater. The regiment was represented at the autumn manœuvres this year by "A" Company, under Captain Bengough. The company, made up to a strength of 100 rank and file, proceeded

to Blandford on the 9th August, and returned to Weymouth at the end of the manoeuvres.

In April, 1873, the new system of linking bat-
1873. talions of the line was introduced, under which the 77th was linked with the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment,* and attached to the 50th Sub-district. The same month the depôt 29th Regiment, which had been attached to the 77th for three years, left for Ireland to re-join their corps on its return from abroad. On the 31st May "I" and "K" Companies left for Woolwich to join the 50th Brigade Depôt, now first formed under the linked battalion system.

The regiment continued at Portland and Weymouth till the 20th June, 1873, when it proceeded to Aldershot and joined the 2nd Brigade on Rushmoor.

The depôt of the 52nd Light Infantry, was attached to the 77th during its stay in Aldershot, which lasted upwards of twelve months, the greater part of which was spent in the East Infantry Barracks, whither the regiment moved in September.

After taking part in the great review before the
1874. Emperor of Russia on the 19th May, 1874, and the first part of the summer drills, the regiment left Aldershot on the 3rd July, and proceeded to Chatham, where it occupied St. Mary's Barracks, furnishing detachments to Upnor and Sheerness. In October it was armed with the Martini-Henry rifle in place of the Snider.

In June, 1875, the regiment returned to Alder-
1875. shot, and was attached to the 1st Division, 1st Army Corps, for the summer drills, serving in the same brigade as its old friends the 5th Fusiliers. While

*The two regiments had never served together, and had apparently never met, except when one relieved the other at Galway in 1820.

encamped on Cove Common very severe weather was experienced, and the tents were frequently under water. On the termination of the summer drills at the end of July the regiment proceeded to Woolwich, and was quartered in the Cambridge Barracks.

H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge inspected the troops at Woolwich the following October, and after the inspection was pleased to say that "the appearance and movements of the 77th Regiment, under Colonel Kent, elicited his decided approbation."

On the 4th May, 1876, the regiment received
1876. new colours. The old colours having been trooped and the new colours consecrated by the Chaplain-General, H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge addressed the regiment as follows :—"Colonel Kent, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 77th Regiment,—It affords me great pleasure and satisfaction to present you with these new colours, to be borne at the head of your regiment on all occasions, and wherever you may be called upon to serve your country in all parts of the world. I have the more pleasure in doing this because I am aware from my own personal experience how gallantly the regiment has on comparatively recent occasions stood by its old colours on the field, and in a manner worthy of the British soldier and highly honourable to this distinguished corps. Nor is the pleasure less because my duty to-day is performed in the presence of two such distinguished generals as Sir Richard Airey and General Lysons, both of whom, as well as myself, served with you in the Crimea, and had the gratification of seeing your bravery in the field. There are, I suppose, unfortunately not many of the same men now among you as then, but I am confident that should any emergency arise, those to whom I entrust these new colours will be equal to those who have so nobly gone before them. And while

speaking of recent events in the history of this corps, I do not forget its services in times long past, and how it won laurels for itself and honour for the whole Army in India. Remember that these emblems are to lead you to honour and victory, and if you do your duty as you have done in the past, and as you assuredly will while you are so ably commanded as you now are, I feel sure these colours will suffer no dishonour.

“I cannot close my remarks without a reference to your brave commander in the Crimea, Colonel Egerton, who fell with his equally brave adjutant in that campaign, and I know how much he was beloved by the corps and looked up to by all. I feel certain that if occasion should arise again, the 77th Regiment will display the same sense of duty, honour, and bravery. I place these colours in your hands, confident that they will be supported and defended as they should be by British soldiers, and particularly by such a regiment as the 77th.”

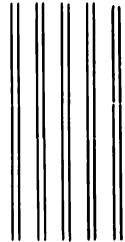
The new colours having been received by Lieutenants Royds and Thornton, Colonel Kent replied as follows:—
“May it please your Royal Highness,—In the name and on behalf of the 77th Regiment, which I have the honour to command, I beg to return you my most grateful and heartfelt thanks for the great honour you have conferred on us by presenting our new colours to us this day. No regiment has received its colours from a more illustrious prince or a more gallant and distinguished soldier.

“The colours, the gift of the great, the good, the beloved Queen, whom we serve, will be dearly prized, and faithfully guarded by every man in the 77th, and you, Sir, may depend upon our doing all in our power to deserve the trust. The old colours were carried throughout the Crimean War, during which fifteen officers and nearly eight hundred men of the 77th Regiment died for the honour of their Queen

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MONUMENT IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
 ERECTED IN MEMORY OF + + +
 OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE + +
 SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT + +
 WHO FELL IN THE CRIMEA, + + +
 1854—1856. + + + + + +



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and country. Another generation now fills their places, but I trust that I shall not be thought to exceed the bounds of pride I take in the noble regiment I have the honour to command when I say that if occasion arose we would emulate the glories of the past, and uphold the honour of the regiment as our fathers did at El Bodon and Inkerman.

“I beg to assure your Royal Highness that the remembrances of this condescending act will be long cherished by us, and will be associated with the best, the truest friend that the soldier ever had.”

After the ceremony the Duke of Cambridge and about a thousand other guests were entertained by Colonel Kent and the officers at a *déjeuner* at the Cambridge Barracks.

On the 8th May the old colours were deposited in St. Paul's Cathedral, whither they were escorted by the whole of the officers and a hundred men with the band and drums of the regiment. The party was met at Cannon Street Station by a guard of honour of the Royal London Militia, and marched to the Mansion House, where it was received by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Cotton). After speeches by the Lord Mayor and Colonel Kent the colours were escorted to the Cathedral, the 77th marching through Queen Victoria Street and Cannon Street with bayonets fixed and band playing, preceded by the Royal London Militia and accompanied by the Lord Mayor on foot.

At the great west entrance of St. Paul's the party was received by the Dean and Chapter, and a procession being formed the colours were borne into the Cathedral and laid upon the Communion Table. A short service was then held and addresses made by the Dean and Chaplain-General, after which the colours were carried to the north side of the Cathedral and placed over the memorial erected there to

the memory of the officers and men of the 77th who died in the Crimean war.

Colonel Kent and the officers of the regiment were afterwards entertained by Sir William Rose and the officers of the Royal London Militia.

On the 18th May Colonel Kent and the officers entertained the Lord Mayor and the Dean of St. Paul's at a banquet at the Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich.

The regiment left Woolwich for Ireland six days later, embarking in H.M.S. "Simoon," at the Royal Arsenal. It landed at Queenstown on the 27th May, and took up its quarters in Cork Barracks, sending detachments to Carlisle Fort, Mitchelstown, and Waterford.

On the 20th June it was notified in the "London Gazette" that Her Majesty had approved of the 77th being in future designated "The Duke of Cambridge's Own Regiment," and on the 14th December permission was given for the Duke's coronet and cypher to be borne on the regimental colours.

The regiment embarked at Queenstown on the
1877. 24th March, 1877, in H.M.S. "Assistance," and landed at Belfast on the 27th, when it took over quarters at Newry, sending out detachments to Monaghan, Trim, and Drogheda.

In the spring of 1878 the imminence of war
1878. with Russia caused the mobilization of the Reserves, and the establishment of the 77th was raised to 40 sergeants and 880 privates by transfers from the Royal East Middlesex Militia.

The Reserves were demobilized and struck off the strength on the 24th July.

The regiment was the best shooting regiment, and "H" Company (Captain King's) the best shooting company in 1877-8.

On the 31st July the regiment proceeded to the Curragh and remained there till the termination of the summer drills, when it moved to Dublin. The regiment had been very popular at Newry, and on hearing that it was not returning the Town Commissioners wrote to Colonel Kent expressing their regret at the corps' removal, their appreciation of the many services rendered by the officers, and their high approval of the excellent conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men. A memorial was also addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, requesting that the regiment might be sent back to Newry, but for military reasons could not be complied with.

The 77th was again the best shooting regiment in 1878-9, and "H" Company the best shooting company, while the 50th Brigade Depot was the best shooting depot.

Owing to the large drafts sent out to the linked battalion, then on active service in South Africa, the regiment was reduced to a mere skeleton in 1879, not being able to find more than thirty duty men. However, on the arrival in Dublin from South Africa of the 57th, a number of men were re-transferred, and the 77th was brought up to 1st Army Corps strength and placed under orders for India.

The regiment embarked at Kingstown on the 12th February, 1880, in H.M.S. "Assistance"; landed at Sheerness, and proceeded to Dover, where it occupied the Shaft Barracks.

On the 1st May it was notified in General Orders that the 77th, for the third time in succession, was the best shooting regiment, and "H" Company (Captain Fenton's) the best shooting company. Private H. Morgan, "B" Company, was declared the best shot in the Army, and Lance-Sergeant A. McFarlane, of the depot, the best

judge of distance. The 50th Brigade Depôt was again the best shooting depôt.

Colonel Kent was placed on half-pay on the 21st June, and announced his retirement in the following Regimental Order:—

“Seventy-seventh—for thirty-five years I have served with you; for twelve years I have commanded you. It is with no ordinary feeling of regret that, on being placed on half-pay, I take leave of the regiment so dear to me, and that I love so well. Most of my happiest recollections are, and will be, associated with it. Many of you were not born when I first joined the regiment under that distinguished officer Colonel Graham Egerton. But from my first day with it to the last I have ever felt an increasing attachment to it, and when by the favour of Her Majesty, and with the approbation of His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, I was called to the command of it, it was my earnest desire to realize the importance of the trust committed to me—and looking back on the past I can truly say that I have spared no pains, no effort to make it as efficient as possible in every respect.

“Nor in saying this do I assume to myself any credit, as I only tried to do my duty; while for the efficient state of the regiment I am mainly indebted to the zealous support which I have received from the officers and non-commissioned officers.

“It will always be a source of pride and pleasure to me that while maintaining the strictest discipline you have looked upon me more as a friend than a commander over you, and with the sincerest wishes for your future success and welfare, I bid you all affectionately farewell.”

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. L. Colquhoun succeeded Colonel Kent in command of the regiment.

On the 29th July the regiment was ordered, by telegram from the Horse Guards, to be held in readiness for immediate embarkation for India, and on the 14th August it left Dover and embarked at Portsmouth in H.M.S. "Himalaya," which sailed the following day.

The strength on embarkation was:—

Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. L. Colquhoun.
 Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Bengough.
 Major R. Hoskins.
 Captain W. F. Gatacre.
 Captain A. L. Tickell.
 Captain C. Forte.
 Captain H. F. Marryat.
 Captain S. B. Royds.
 Captain R. C. Thornton.
 Captain F. H. M. Dawson.
 Captain F. Graham.
 Lieutenant E. E. Foley.
 Lieutenant F. D. Lumley.
 Lieutenant R. T. H. Law.
 Lieutenant G. C. G. Norton.
 Lieutenant N. W. Barnardiston.
 Lieutenant G. B. Lempriere.
 Lieutenant G. W. W. Savile.
 Lieutenant M. Singleton.
 Lieutenant L. G. Oliver.
 Lieutenant and Adjutant A. G. Schuyler.
 Captain A. H. Haldane (Paymaster).

40 Sergeants, 17 Drummers, and 743 Rank and File.

The regiment landed at Bombay on the 10th and 11th September, and proceeded to Poona, whence the headquarters and left wing started, in the evening of the 13th, for Fort St. George, Madras. The right wing, under

Lieutenant-Colonel Bengough, left the following day for Bellary.

After being only three months at Madras and Bellary, the regiment embarked, on the 16th December, for Burmah, and on the 23rd landed at Rangoon, where it occupied the barracks on the Signal Pagoda Plateau. Two companies were detached to Port Blair, in the Andaman Islands.

On the 1st July, 1881, the Infantry of the Line **1881.** was reorganized and formed into territorial regiments. The 77th, under this reorganization, became the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), of which the other battalions were the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment, the Royal East Middlesex Militia, and the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry Militia. The facings were changed from yellow to white, and a "rose pattern" lace introduced in place of that hitherto worn.

The battalion remained at Rangoon till **1883.** December, 1883, when it embarked for India, landing at Madras on the 1st January, 1884, and **1884.** proceeding thence to the Camp of Exercise at Bangalore. On the breaking up of the camp it proceeded by rail to Secunderabad, and occupied barracks at Trimulgherry, on the 1st February.

Colonel Colquhoun's five years' tenure of command having expired on the 20th June, 1884, he was placed on half-pay and succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Gatacre.

On the 5th April, 1885, the battalion was **1885.** suddenly warned for active service, hostilities with Russia being imminent. It was later notified that the Quetta district would be its destination. War was, however, averted, and after being for three weeks in a state of readiness to start for the front at the shortest

notice, the battalion was informed on the 25th May that its services would not be required.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gatacre resigned the command of the battalion in December, 1885, on appointment as D.Q.M. General, Bengal, and was succeeded in the command by Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. Matthews.

In September, 1886, a detachment of two
1886. companies, under Captain Sharpe, left Secunderabad for Kamptee, Central Provinces, to take over the barracks vacated by the 2nd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, ordered to Burmah.

The headquarters and remainder of the
1887. battalion left Secunderabad on the 28th and 29th March for Kamptee, arriving there five days later. The battalion here came under the command of one of its old officers, Brigadier-General H. M. Bengough, who at this time commanded the Nagpore district. The only detachment furnished from Kamptee was a half-company at Seetabuldee Fort, Nagpore, about ten miles away, which was relieved monthly.

On the 1st October, 1888, the Nagpore
1888. district was handed over from the Madras to the Bombay Presidency, and the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment transferred to the Bombay Establishment. The following month H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army, visited Kamptee on a tour of inspection.

The battalion remained at Kamptee till
1890. January, 1890, when it moved to Mhow and Indore, "H" Company, under Captain Dyer, proceeding to the latter station by rail. The headquarters and remainder of the battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel H. D. Wade-Dalton (who had succeeded Lieutenant-Colonel Matthews in the command the previous Sep-

tember) marched from Kamptee for Mhow on the 24th January. The distance traversed was 335 miles, and the route taken that viâ Budnor, Itarsi, and Hurda, which had not seen a British regiment since the days of the Mutiny. The battalion exchanged stations with the 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and the two corps met and encamped together for three days at Budnor, during which time the transport was exchanged, the North Lancashires taking over the Kamptee transport carts and animals. The battalion reached Mhow on the 6th March and took up its quarters in the British infantry barracks there.

After being nearly two years at Mhow the
1892. battalion left that station on the 12th and 13th February for Bombay, where it embarked for Karachi, en route for Quetta, at which place it arrived at the end of the month.

As there were many men who had spent from six to ten years in the warm climate of Southern and Central India, the sudden change to the frost and snow of Quetta was severely felt, and at first there was a very large number of admissions to hospital.

In April, 1893, news having reached Quetta
1893. of the murder of ministers at Kelat, at the instigation of the Khan, a small force of all arms, including the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, was despatched to Kelat, under Colonel Wade-Dalton. The force left Quetta on the 11th, and arrived and encamped at Kelat, after some arduous marches over steep mountain passes, on the 21st.

On the 6th May orders were received to remove the Khan's treasure, estimated at 44 lacs of rupees, packed in boxes containing eight thousand rupees each, from the Kelat Fort to the camp. Working parties from the

battalion and the 5th Mountain Battery were employed on this duty for a week, and shortly after the removal of treasure the force returned to Quetta, leaving three companies of the Middlesex Regiment, some guns, and cavalry behind at Kelat.

The return march was a very trying one, as the men had daily before starting nearly an hour's work loading the 275 camels which carried the treasure. The pace of the camels was slow over the bad ground, and only one halt could be allowed during the day's march. On arrival in camp there was another hour's work unloading and stacking the treasure chests, and the guard duties were severe. The men, however, were in excellent health and condition, and excepting a few cases of fever and sunstroke, no man fell out during the march.

Colonel Wade-Dalton was placed on retired pay in September, 1893, and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Garstin, from the 1st Battalion, who joined and assumed command in February, 1894.

The battalion left Quetta the following March, when the headquarters moved to Ahmednagar, two companies to Satara, and one to Kirkee. In these quarters the battalion remained upwards of three years.

In January, 1897, a draft from the 1st Battalion, in South Africa, on its way to join the 2nd Battalion, in India, was wrecked in the transport "Warren Hastings," on the island of Réunion. The conduct of the troops on board on this occasion was the subject of a general order by the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, who expressed his great gratification in making known to the Army "the remarkable courage and exemplary discipline displayed by the troops under most trying circumstances."

The Royal Dublin Fusiliers being suddenly ordered to

South Africa in May, in anticipation of possible trouble in the Transvaal, the battalion was ordered to relieve them at Bombay at three days' notice. The headquarters and "H" Company arrived on the 17th May at Bombay, whither the three companies from Kirkee and Satara had already proceeded; the remaining companies relieved the detachments of the Dublin Fusiliers at Ahmedabad, Deolalee, and Deesa.

At Bombay the battalion had the good fortune to come under one of its old commanding officers—Brigadier-General W. F. Gatacre—who accorded a hearty welcome to his old corps. Being placed under orders to return home during the 1897-98 trooping season, the battalion was ordered to furnish a draft of 460 men for the 1st

1898. Battalion on its arrival in India. This party left Bombay on the 18th January, 1898, and two days later the headquarters and what were left of the battalion—20 officers, 2 warrant officers, and 320 men—embarked in the transport "Dilwara" for England, over seventeen years having elapsed since, as the 77th Regiment, the corps had arrived in India.

Landing at Southampton on the 13th February, the battalion proceeded to Woolwich the same day and occupied the Cambridge Barracks. In August the Middlesex Regiment was honoured by the appointment of H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge as its Colonel-in-Chief. His Royal Highness, in reply to a letter from Sir George Willis, the Colonel of the regiment, expressing the regiment's gratitude for the honour conferred on it, was pleased to say that he was much gratified at being appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the old 57th and 77th, and desired that both battalions should be informed how pleased he was by the honour conferred on him.

The battalion took part in the manœuvres, held on a

large scale in Wiltshire, this year, and returned to Woolwich on their termination on the 9th September.

The same month Colonel Garstin, who had commanded the battalion for the last five years, gave up the command on being placed on half-pay. Before leaving he presented a gold medal, to be inscribed annually with the name of the best shot in the battalion. He was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Hill, from the 1st Battalion, who joined and assumed command on the 1st November, 1898.



CHAPTER VII.*

SOUTH AFRICA.

1899—1903.

The Battalion mobilised for active service—Embarks for South Africa—Lands at Durban—Joins 5th Division at Estcourt—At Spearman's Hill—Action of Spion Kop—Retreat to Chieveley—Further operations for the relief of Ladysmith—On Hussar Hill—Crossing the Tugela—Attack on Grobelaar's Kloof—Ladysmith relieved—The Battalion embarks at Durban for Cape Town—Re-lands and returns to Pietermaritzburg—To Ladysmith—March to Elandslaagte—Advance through the Biggarsberg—Occupation of Glencoe—Newcastle reached—Advance through the Drakensberg—Van Wyk and Alleman's Nek—Natal cleared of the enemy—The 10th Brigade at Volksrust—Flying columns sent towards Amersfoort—The Battalion stationed in and around Newcastle—A detachment sent to Dundee—Attack on Utrecht—The Battalion sent to occupy that town, which it holds till the end of the war—Operations in the Eastern Transvaal—Peace proclaimed—The Battalion demobilised—Return to England.

On the 13th November, 1899, the battalion **1899.** received orders to mobilise for service in South Africa, and was detailed to form part of the 10th Brigade, 5th Division, the divisional commander being Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Warren, K.C.M.G., and the brigadier, Colonel (temporary Major-General) J. Talbot-Coke.

*The chapter in the official records of the Battalion relating to the South African War is here given without alteration or omission.

The Reserves were ordered to mobilise at Hounslow, 554 being called out, of whom 507 joined the battalion; the remainder, with the exception of one man who failed to report himself, being rejected as medically unfit, or otherwise accounted for.

The battalion was inspected by Major-General J. F. Maurice, C.B., on 29th November, 1899, and was ordered to embark at Southampton in the ss. "Avondale Castle" on 1st December, but the transport was delayed in the Thames by fog, and the embarkation was consequently postponed until the following day, when the battalion left Woolwich by rail and embarked at the port mentioned.

The names of the officers and the strength of the battalion embarked were as follows:—

Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Hill (commanding).

Major N. J. R. Blake (second-in-command).

Major W. Scott-Moncrieff.

Major G. B. Lempriere.

Captain G. W. W. Savile.

Captain C. R. Dyer.

Captain R. de H. Burton.

Captain H. M. Eustace.

Captain C. L. Muriel.

Captain C. E. Pemberton.

Lieutenant R. A. Haviland.

Lieutenant H. E. Foster.

Lieutenant F. A. Galbraith.

Lieutenant H. Storr.

Lieutenant C. S. D. Fisher.

Second Lieutenant W. G. H. Lawley.

Second Lieutenant H. P. Osborne.

Second Lieutenant G. W. Bentley.

Second Lieutenant H. P. F. Bicknell.

Second Lieutenant H. A. C. Wilson.

Second Lieutenant W. A. Stewart.

Second Lieutenant J. St. J. Secker.

Lieutenant and Adjutant H. F. MacEwan.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster T. Piper.

1 warrant officer and 1,017 non-commissioned officers and men. Total, 1,032 all ranks; and also Lieutenant F. Harvey, Royal Army Medical Corps, Medical Officer, attached.

The transport sailed from Southampton on the afternoon of 2nd December, 1899, and arrived at Cape Town on the morning of 26th December, no casualties having occurred during the voyage. The battalion at once transhipped to the hired transport ss. "Mongolian," and left at 6 p.m. the same day for Durban, where it arrived late on the evening of 31st December, 1899.

The disembarkation was carried out early on **1900.** 1st January, 1900, and the battalion proceeded in the afternoon by four troop trains to Estcourt, where it joined the 10th Brigade, the remainder of the 5th Division being already concentrated there.

The Division left Estcourt on the 9th January, and marched to Frere, where it halted for one night, and then proceeded to Springfield Bridge, where the 10th Brigade was detached until 15th January, when it moved on to Spearman's Hill and rejoined the remainder of the Field Force, which had been augmented by the arrival of the 2nd Division from Chieveley, the whole being under the command of General the Right Honourable Sir Redvers H. Buller, V.C., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., who issued the following order:—

“ Field Order.

“ Springfield,

“ 12th January, 1900.

“ The Field Force is now advancing to the relief of Ladysmith where, surrounded by superior forces, our comrades have gallantly defended themselves for the last ten weeks.

“ The General Commanding knows that everyone in the Force feels, as he does, we must be successful.

“ We shall be stoutly opposed by a clever, unscrupulous enemy. Let no man allow himself to be deceived by them. If a white flag is displayed, it means nothing unless the force displaying it halt, throw down their arms, and throw up their hands at the same time.

“ If they get a chance the enemy will try and mislead us by false words of command and false bugle sounds ; everyone must guard against being deceived by such conduct.

“ Above all, if any are ever surprised by a sudden volley at close quarters, let there be no hesitation, do not turn from it, but rush at it. That is the road to victory and safety. A retreat is fatal ; the one thing the enemy cannot stand is our being at close quarters with them.

“ We are fighting for the health and safety of our comrades ; we are fighting in defence of our flag against an enemy who has forced war upon us for the worst and lowest motives by treachery, conspiracy, and deceit. Let us bear ourselves as our cause deserves.

“ By Order,

“ (Signed) A. WYNNE, Colonel,

“ Chief of Staff.”

On the 22nd January the force crossed the Tugela River and bivouacked at One Tree Hill ; and on the 23rd January

the battalion, forming part of the 10th Brigade, 5th Division, was bivouacking near the base of Spion Kop.

The battalion was under the temporary command of Major N. J. R. Blake, Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Hill being in temporary command of the 10th Brigade—the Brigadier, Major-General J. Talbot Coke, having replaced Sir Charles Warren in command of the Division. The latter officer had been placed in command of the whole force detailed for the movements in this part of the zone of operations.

At about 1 a.m. on the morning of the 24th January, 1900, the battalion received orders to advance in support of the 11th Brigade, which had moved off during the night in order to assault Spion Kop early in the morning. The night was fine but dark. Absolute silence was maintained. The battalion moved off, and after marching for some time over very rough ground took up a position on the hills west of Spion Kop, which at dawn was enveloped in a thick mist. Here they remained until about 8 a.m., when, after having some breakfast, and leaving their great-coats on the ground, the battalion again moved off, as part of the right flank attack, in fours, with five yards distance between each section of fours, and commenced the ascent of Spion Kop. The hill had been seized early in the morning by the 11th Brigade.

“G” Company marched off first, followed by “D,” “C,” “A,” “B,” “E” and “F” in the order named. “H” Company had been ordered to take up picks and shovels in order to make a road.

The ascent was very steep, and in most places it was necessary to climb in single file. “G” Company had trailed out a good deal in consequence, and on reaching the top of the hill Captain Eustace received orders to occupy with what men he had, amounting to a dozen or so, the crest line of the hill behind some stones. This he did. The rest of

the company, under Lieutenant Lawley (who was afterwards killed), were ordered to the right of the position.

On arriving near the summit the other companies of the battalion received various, and in many cases contradictory, orders as to the position to be occupied by them. The advance was much hampered, too, by continuous streams of men of various regiments, wounded, etc., coming down the hill.

A trench to the right rear of the rocks occupied by Captain Eustace and a part of "G" Company, was occupied by "C" Company, under Captain Dyer, under circumstances of great coolness and gallantry. This trench had been evacuated in a panic by a large number of men belonging to another brigade, who were holding it before the arrival of the company. While the latter was advancing and preparing to rush over the top of the hill they were met by a crowd of the fugitives, who came running down the hill, shouting, "Retire!" The Boers are on us." Captain Dyer endeavoured to stop them, but they were panic-stricken, so calling out, "Come on, 'C' Company!" while Second Lieutenant Bicknell also shouted, "Come on, Diehards!" he led his company through them and occupied the trench which they had left.

The troops on the summit of the hill were much mixed up; companies were separated from their battalions, sections and individuals from their companies at different parts of the hill, but as far as can be ascertained the companies of the battalion appear to have been more or less in the following order, occupying the crest line of the hill:—

On the extreme right of the position part of "H" Company; next "B," then part of "A"; "C" and "G" more to the left; then "D"; and "F" and "E" further to the left.

The men were terribly crowded, in many places lying on

the top of one another, and were exposed during the whole day to a very heavy and well-directed fire from rifles, machine guns and artillery, from nearly all sides.

A more trying situation can hardly be conceived.

Had there been fewer men on the top of the hill the losses would have been considerably less. The sufferings endured from thirst were also very great. The only water procurable was what the men had in their water-bottles, and that they mostly gave away to the wounded.

In spite of all this, the behaviour of our men was splendid. There were numerous cases of gallantry and devotion on the part of both officers and men, and more than one effort was made, though without success, to reach the Boers with the bayonet.

Notwithstanding the galling and destructive fire to which the men were exposed from 11 a.m. till sunset, preparations were being made for a charge against the enemy's trenches under cover of the darkness, but before this could be carried out repeated orders were received to retire and evacuate the hill. This was eventually done in spite of remonstrances and with the greatest reluctance by all ranks.

The companies retired down the hill during the night, and returned on the following day to their old bivouac.

The battalion lost heavily, the casualties being as follows :

Killed :—

Captain C. L. Muriel.
 Second Lieutenant W. G. H. Lawley.
 Second Lieutenant H. A. C. Wilson.
 2 Sergeants.
 19 Rank and File.

Wounded :—

Major W. Scott-Moncrieff.
 Captain G. W. W. Savile.
 Captain R. de H. Burton.

Second Lieutenant G. W. Bentley.

4 Sergeants.

45 Rank and File (including one prisoner).

*Missing:—

Lieutenant F. A. Galbraith.

2 Sergeants.

15 Rank and File.

†Prisoners:—

7 Privates (1 wounded).

The whole of the officers of the battalion, with the exception of Lieutenant and Quartermaster T. Piper, who was left at Spearman's in charge of the baggage, took part in the action of Spion Kop.

For cases of gallantry, etc., brought to notice by General Officer Commanding 5th Division, see Appendix at the end of this chapter.

After the retirement from Spion Kop the battalion returned on 25th January, 1900, to its bivouac on the hills north of the Tugela, and after assisting in covering the general retirement which then took place, marched to Hattling's Farm, which it reached on 27th January.

On 31st January Lieutenant L. S. Roome, 2 sergeants, 5 corporals, and 53 privates joined from England, bringing up the strength to 23 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,052 other ranks.

On 1st February the battalion moved to Spearman's.

The following message, which had been received by the General Officer Commanding from Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, was communicated to the troops on 3rd February:—

*These were all struck off the strength, as killed, by a Court of Inquiry held at Newcastle on 5th December, 1900.

† Recaptured at Pretoria, 6th June, 1900.

"I must express my admiration of the conduct of the troops during the past trying week, especially of those regiments you specify, and of the accomplishment of your arduous march."

Sir Redvers Buller's telegram with reference to Spion Kop had contained the following passage :—

"Our men fought with great gallantry, and I would especially mention the conduct of the 2nd Cameronians and the 3rd King's Royal Rifle Corps, who supported the attack on the mountain from the steepest side, and in each case fought their way to the top, and the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers and 2nd Middlesex, who magnificently maintained the best traditions of the British Army throughout the trying day of the 24th, and Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry, who fought throughout the day equally well alongside of them."

Receiving sudden orders to move to Naval Gun Plateau (under Mount Alice), the battalion struck camp and marched at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, 4th February, but returned in the evening to Spearman's, where it remained during the actions at or near Vaal Krantz on the 5th, 6th, and 7th. On the 8th it was moved to Naval Gun Plateau to assist in covering the general retirement of the Army on Frere and Chieveley.

Forming the rear-guard of the 10th Brigade, the battalion marched on the 10th February to Springfield Bridge and bivouacked, and on the following day continued the retirement, experiencing two very hot and trying marches to Pretorius Farm and Chieveley, which latter place was reached at noon on 12th February.

Two days later commenced the operations to the east and north-east of Colenso, which were destined to open the road to Ladysmith. During the first portion of these the battalion took no active part, remaining from the 14th to 20th February on Hussar Hill, though frequently under shell and pom-pom fire, which, however, did no damage. On the

20th the battalion moved across to Hlangwani, and bivouacked at the foot of the hill that night, ascending it the following morning (21st). A pontoon bridge had been thrown across the Tugela about a mile below the railway bridge, where the river runs nearly due north for a short distance before turning to the east again. It was here the Tugela was to be crossed, and the 10th Brigade were to have the honour of leading the advance, which was to commence about 1 p.m. on 21st February.

The bridge was crossed about two o'clock under shell fire, which, however, inflicted no loss. After crossing the bridge the brigade formed up to attack the slopes of Grobelaar's Kloof. The right half battalion extended and acted in support of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, and quickly came under very heavy shell and rifle fire. The Somersetshire Light Infantry suffered very severely, but our casualties were only 7 men wounded—4 dangerously so, of whom 2 died on the following day. The left half battalion in the meantime took up a position in support of the first line, along the Kopjes just above the plain which ran north and south, the Dorset Regiment protecting the left flank nearer Colenso. The engagement was kept up till after dark, and the 10th Brigade then occupied the kopjes along the river covering the bridge.

From the 22nd February until after the successful attack on Pieter's Hill on the 27th, the battalion was continuously on outpost duty in this position, and under incessant shell and rifle fire, with, however, surprisingly few casualties.

On the 22nd February the battalion received the chocolate boxes, the gift of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and on the 28th was received the joyful news of the unconditional surrender of General Cronje to Lord Roberts at Paardeberg on the preceding day (the anniver-

sary of the battle of Majuba): and also of the entry of Lord Dundonald into Ladysmith.

The battalion remained on the hills north of Colenso until 7th March, receiving orders on the 5th to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Cape Town. On 7th March, the battalion, with the rest of the 10th Brigade,* proceeded by train to Pietermaritzburg, arriving on the following morning (to refit for embarkation), and leaving again by train on night of 10th March, arrived at Durban at 6 a.m. on 11th and embarked on the ss. "Hawarden Castle."

The orders for the move to Cape Town were, however, countermanded, and on the 15th March the battalion disembarked again and returned by train to Pietermaritzburg, arriving early on the following morning. Here they remained until 21st March.

Whilst at Pietermaritzburg orders were received for the despatch of 1 colour-sergeant, 3 sergeants, and 5 corporals to England to join the newly-formed 3rd Battalion, and Lieutenant G. W. Haslehust (who had joined the battalion on 21st February), 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 19 privates joined the 10th Brigade Depôt at Pietermaritzburg for duty.

On the 21st March the battalion proceeded by train to Ladysmith, which was reached on the following day.

On the 1st April, 1900, the strength of the battalion was 25 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,027 other ranks.

On the 4th April the 10th Brigade marched to Modder Spruit in the following order:—

*The 10th Brigade consisted of the 2nd Dorset Regiment and 2nd Middlesex Regiment, Supply Column, Bearer Company, and Field Hospital, the Somerset Light Infantry having been withdrawn and sent elsewhere.

Advanced Guard :—

Half Battalion, 2nd Middlesex Regiment, and
Divisional Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel
Hill.

Main Body :—

Major-General Talbot Coke and Staff : 2nd Dorset
Regiment.

Half Battalion, 2nd Middlesex Regiment.

Bearer Company.

Field Hospital.

10th Mountain Battery.

On the 5th, the brigade arrived at Elandslaagte, about eight miles beyond Modder Spruit. The battalion camped here east of the railway not far from the station, and to the south of it.

Elandslaagte consists only of a railway station and a few houses, with a few collieries of some importance. It lies 15 miles south of the Biggarsberg, which at this time was held by a large and enterprising force of the Boers.

On the 8th April a draft arrived from England, consisting of—

Lieutenant P. M. Large.

Second-Lieutenant H. G. L. Bengough.

Second-Lieutenant D. O. C. Newton.

2 Sergeants, 1 Drummer, 2 Corporals, and 140 Privates

This draft was composed chiefly of reservists of Section "D," and was very welcome, the battalion being much depleted by sickness.

On the 12th April a draft from the Volunteer Battalions of the Regiment arrived. It was formed into a separate company, designated the "Volunteer Company," and composed as under :—

Captain C. S. Roche, 17th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.

Lieutenant A. K. Grylls, 1st V.B. Middlesex Regiment.

*Lieutenant C. D'O. A. C. Bowers, 2nd V.B. Middlesex Regiment.

Sergeant-Instructor W. G. Parker.

3 Sergeants, 2 Drummers, 5 Corporals, and 100 Privates.

About this time it was notified in orders that many of the enemy had adopted khaki uniform and puttees.

On the 20th April the following Divisional Order, dated the 19th idem, was promulgated:—

“Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Warren, on relinquishing the command of the 5th Division, desires to tender his cordial thanks to officers and soldiers of all ranks, and to his staff, for the excellent work they have performed during several months' campaigning, and to express his admiration at the fortitude and courage they have shown through many privations, and the promptitude and alacrity they have always shown in carrying out all duties they have been called upon to perform. In bidding them a hearty 'good-bye' Sir Charles Warren hopes that he may again have the good fortune to meet them in camp or field.”

Sir Charles Warren was succeeded in the command of the 5th Division by Major-General H. J. T. Hildyard, C.B.

The battalion remained at Elandslaagte until the 8th May. During part of this time C, D, E, and F Companies, under Major Blake, were detached to Lord Dundonald's camp near Modder Spruit, about three miles off. Owing to the strength of the Boer forces on the Biggarsberg during the time, constant vigilance was necessary.

Elandslaagte proved a very unhealthy spot, and nearly every one in the battalion suffered more or less from dysentery, while there were several deaths. During April

*Joined on 18th April.

1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 27 privates were invalided to England.

During the stay at Elandslaagte the battalion was continually occupied in outpost duty and in making defensive works. No serious attempt was made by the Boers against Elandslaagte, though on 21st April a demonstration was made and some shells fired at the naval guns on Battle Ridge (the site of the engagement in October, 1899), and on the 8th May a picquet of the Rifle Brigade at the railway station was attacked by a small party of Boers.

On 1st May, 1900, the strength of the battalion amounted to 30 officers, 1,296 other ranks.

On 2nd May Major Blake assumed command of the battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel Hill succeeding to the temporary command of the 10th Brigade, during the absence, on leave, of Major-General Talbot Coke. Lieutenant-Colonel Hill resumed command of the battalion on 15th May.

On 12th May a draft of Militia Reservists joined; strength 1 corporal and 83 privates.

On 9th May the battalion left Elandslaagte and marched to Sunday's River Bluff, preparatory to taking part in the general movement against the Biggarsberg, and in particular against the pass leading from Waschbank to Glencoe. By the 11th the whole of the 5th Division were advancing to a position on the Indodo Mountain. In this movement the battalion was on the left: it remained at Sunday's River Bluff until the 13th, when in the afternoon sudden orders were received to send all tents back to Elandslaagte. Marching at 5 p.m., the battalion crossed Sunday's River and advanced in a northerly direction. On the following day the advance was continued: the 15th was a day of rest. The Boers were reported to have left the hills in front, which they had occupied two days previously,

and on the 16th the advance was resumed still in a northerly direction, and at the close of the march a hill east of Wessels Nek was occupied. The following morning Waschbank was reached, and the battalion bivouacked there, close to the main road to Glencoe.

Here the whole of the 5th Division were united, and the battalion was engaged in repairing the railway bridge and line, which had been badly damaged by the Boers. The whole brigade participated, in relays of 200 men, in this work, which was most essential, as the bulk of the supplies for the troops could only be conveyed by rail, road transport through the Biggarsberg being almost useless, and it being very necessary to push forward supplies at this juncture as rapidly as possible. The General Officer Commanding 5th Division was directed to keep the roads clear for supply parks and columns, and to assist them where necessary.

During the march just described considerable hardship was endured by the troops owing to the lack of rations and blankets, due to the great difficulties encountered by the transport.

At 4.30 a.m. on the 18th May, the battalion marched (with the whole of the 5th Division, except the Durban Light Infantry) through the pass to Glencoe, without encountering any opposition. At Glencoe Junction traces of the hasty departure of the enemy could be seen, many tents being left standing, and a quantity of ammunition being abandoned. This was destroyed by us. After a halt from 10 a.m. to about 3 p.m. the battalion marched to Hattingh's Spruit, en route, it was hoped, for Newcastle and the Transvaal, but owing to difficulties of supply it was found necessary to order back the 10th Brigade to Glencoe, and after being marched northward on the 19th for an hour and a half orders were received directing this retirement,

and the battalion arrived at Glencoe in the evening. Here the first touch of winter was experienced, the mornings at this altitude being extremely cold.

The march from Waschbank northwards was by far the most trying which had been encountered up to this stage of the campaign, the greater part of it being uphill, and at very steep gradients, but in spite of the large number of recently joined men, very few fell out.

The following message was received on the 19th from the Assistant Adjutant-General, 5th Division, and published for information :—

“The General Officer Commanding is gratified to learn that Sir Redvers Buller attributes the successful occupation of Glencoe largely to the action of the 5th Division. The General Officer Commanding thanks all ranks for the very hard work they have done during the above operation.”

The division having been entrusted with repairing the railway line to Newcastle (which had by now been occupied by the mounted troops and the 2nd Division), the battalion marched on the 21st to Wild Duck Vlei, about six miles north of Glencoe; the Dublin Fusiliers (who had meantime joined the brigade) going to Hattingh's Spruit, while the 11th Brigade moved further north.

“E” Company, under Major G. W. W. Savile, remained at Glencoe to bring on the transport which had gone back to Waschbank for supplies. This company rejoined the battalion on the 23rd May, and the whole force marched on to Dannhauser in the afternoon.

The following day being the Queen's Birthday, the troops turned out in fatigue dress and gave three cheers for Her Most Gracious Majesty: an extra ration of bacon, cheese, and rum was sanctioned, but owing to the non-

arrival of the Supply Column from Glencoe, only the latter could be issued.

The heavy marching of the past few weeks now began to tell on the boots, and many men were nearly barefooted. Lieutenant Bengough was accordingly sent back to Ladysmith to bring up a supply.

On the 26th May the battalion again marched northwards, reaching Ingagane the same day, and Newcastle on the 27th. On the march to Ingagane, Majuba Hill was seen for the first time, about 40 miles off. The battalion was in bivouac at Newcastle till the 31st May, and after that in camp till the 5th June.

The Boers were occupying the passes through the Drakensberg leading to the Orange Free State (now the Orange River Colony) and Transvaal, north-west, north, and north-east of Newcastle, including Laing's Nek.

The 4th Division and the 11th Brigade moved towards Utrecht on the 28th May, and the 2nd Division was about Ingogo in contact with the advanced posts of the enemy. Utrecht surrendered on the 29th.

Lieutenant Bengough returned from Ladysmith bringing with him 700 pairs of boots, which were badly wanted, also many presents from England for the troops.

On 1st June, 1900, the strength of the battalion was 30 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,296 other ranks.

One sergeant, 2 corporals, and 27 other ranks were invalided during May.

On 3rd June the first consignment of khaki serge clothing was received, it having been decided that this material should take the place of the khaki drill.

About this time the following Field Army Order was published:—

“The General Commanding has much pleasure in communicating to the troops the following telegram which he has received from Her Majesty, and his reply thereto:—

“Windsor Castle, 15th May, 1900.

“To General Sir Redvers Buller, Dundee, Natal.

“Delighted at your success and your entry into Dundee. Trust all wounded are doing well.

“V.R.I.”

“To Queen Victoria, Windsor Castle.

“Troops grateful for your Majesty’s gracious telegram. They have had very hard work, but I am thankful to say only seven wounded, all of whom are doing well.

“Buller.”

On the 5th June the battalion moved to De Wet’s Farm, about ten miles off, and bivouacked there, this being the commencement of the movement which was to turn the Laing’s Nek position.

On the following day the battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, five squadrons South African Light Horse, and a field battery moved out under Major-General Talbot Coke, to make a reconnaissance in the direction of Van Wyk, a hill overlooking Botha’s Pass.

It was intended that this force should return to their bivouacs the same day, and in consequence only arms and ammunition were carried, but the occupation of Van Wyk was found necessary, and in doing this the enemy was encountered, and a stiff engagement took place, in which the Boers, with great dash, endeavoured to drive us from the hill, but without success. At 2.30 p.m. the remainder of the 10th Brigade marched for Van Wyk in support and arrived the same night.

Six companies of the battalion were engaged—the Volunteer company being for the first time in action—and one company (E) acted as escort to the field battery.

L

Our casualties were :—

Killed.—No. 3365 Private J. Pollicutt.

Wounded.—Five rank and file (one dangerously).

As it had been intended that the battalion should return for dinner, no rations were carried, and consequently most of the companies had no food whatever from 7 a.m. on the 5th to 9 a.m. on the 6th June; in addition to which they had no blankets or great-coats—it being impossible to get the transport within several miles of the battalion that night—and were obliged to bivouac without covering throughout the bitterly cold night of the 5th—6th on the summit of the Drakensberg.

The seizure of Van Wyk enabled the 2nd and 11th Brigades to occupy Botha's Pass on the 8th June with little loss. The battalion acted as escort to the guns. On the 9th the whole force advanced into the Orange Free State through Botha's Pass, and in the direction of Alleman's Nek.

On the high veldt rapid progress was made, and the companies, being able to advance on a broad front (column of companies) marched at considerably over the regulation pace.

Gans Vlei was reached on the 10th, and the battalion bivouacked there for the night. On the 11th the advance was continued towards Alleman's Nek, which was reported to be held by a very large force of Boers, strongly entrenched, and in possession of heavy artillery and pom-poms.

The force formed for attack about three miles from the Nek, the 2nd Brigade being on the left of the road running through the Nek, and the 10th Brigade on the right of it opposite the main position. The 11th Brigade were in reserve with a cavalry brigade on each flank, and supported by heavy artillery and pom-poms.

The first line of the 10th Brigade was found by the 2nd

Dorset Regiment, and the 2nd line by the 2nd Middlesex Regiment, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers being on the right flank of the advance.

The battalion, in extended order, advanced by half battalions, the right half battalion in front under Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, the left, under Major Blake, following.

During the whole of the advance the firing, both artillery and rifle, was incessant, and for the first time the sound of our own pom-poms was heard.

The position was carried by about 5 p.m. The brunt of the battle was borne by the Dorset Regiment, who behaved with splendid gallantry, losing 10 killed and 40 wounded.

The behaviour of the battalion was, however, no less conspicuous, advancing, as it did, under heavy shell and rifle fire, without the slightest cover, as if on parade. At one time the greater part of the battalion was ordered to move to a flank, so as to come up on the left of the Dorsets and carry a small though steep conical hill detached from the main ridge. This flank movement, always a trying and difficult feat under fire, was carried out with exemplary precision.

Our artillery fire was particularly effective, many of the shantzes being completely destroyed.

In this action, which resulted in the Boers evacuating Laing's Nek, and the clearance of the enemy from Natal, the battalion lost one man killed—No. 2407 Private A. Davis—and eight wounded.

The battalion bivouacked on the night of the 11th on the position they had won, marching to Volksrust on the following day and to Charlestown on the 13th.

Here Major-General J. Talbot Coke, commanding 10th Brigade, addressed the battalion as follows:—

“Colonel Hill, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the 2nd Middlesex Regiment,—I want to take this

opportunity of speaking to you of the work which has been done, and the privations endured by you, during the past week. Here we are at Majuba; the Boers have been entrenching themselves in that position for months past, and they said they intended to stay there until the war was over. Now, as you know, we started away last week in what was intended to be a reconnaissance, and we little thought when we left De Wet's farm with our dinners being cooked but what we should return the same day. We never thought we should have to stay all night, but the position (Van Wyk) was an important one. I don't wish to praise the Middlesex more than you deserve, but the honour is with you all for the manner in which you won and held Van Wyk, that being the key to the whole work. By holding that position as you did, we were able to gain Botha's Pass, and thence, as you know, we got into the Free State.

“Then, again, your action at Alleman's Nek. That battle was fought and won by the 10th Brigade. There was another brigade on the left, but they did not close with the enemy, and it was a very serious position. We found the Boers there, strongly posted, about 2,800 strong, but a great many retired at the commencement of the fight; those who remained were stubborn and determined men, and I must say had not the Middlesex come up at the most critical moment, just as the sun was setting, it might have proved very serious, as it was a grave situation, and I felt very anxious myself, knowing that if the position was not taken that night we should have to retire, which would have been very unfavourable for us, for Sir Redvers Buller, and for the whole Army. But, however, the Middlesex came up, and the position was taken, the Boers running away pell-mell. When they retired they also left Laing's Nek—I cannot say ‘retired’—they simply fled—a disorganised rabble.

“ This makes the third time you have distinguished yourselves, and you have covered yourselves with honour and glory, and when you read the history of this war in years to come, you should be proud to think that you belonged to that good old corps, who fully maintained the name they deserve, ‘ Diehards.’

“ This regiment has always been fortunate in arriving at the most critical moment. The first time you distinguished yourselves was at Spion Kop, when you saved the position and also the Lancashire Brigade, who were on the point of retiring. The Boers said they intended to make it a second Majuba, driving the English into Natal, and shooting them down like rabbits as they ran ; and perhaps they would have done so had not the Middlesex Regiment arrived just in time ; but, thank God, they did not run. It is a matter of controversy whether that was a victory or not, but I say it was, and will be looked upon as such.

“ The second time you distinguished yourselves was at Van Wyk, when you, and you alone, fought and held that position, and did not retire, but stayed there like men and heroes, all through a night of bitter cold and frost, without food or shelter, or even a great-coat.

“ The third time you distinguished yourselves was at Alleman’s Nek, and the reason I put you in the second line that day was because Wellington and Napoleon always said they kept their best and bravest men in the second line to consolidate the victory, and knowing this regiment for the work they had done, I acted in the same manner.

“ I must tell you I have received congratulations from Sir Redvers Buller and other distinguished officers, and I think it is only fair I should share them with you.

“ There is only one thing more I should like to speak to you about ; it is that through all the trying times you have undergone, and the terrible hardships you have suffered, I

am pleased to say that I have heard no grumbling or complaints.

"We are now going to stay here for a few days to renew our supplies before we advance, and I know you have all earned this much-needed rest.

"Colonel Hill, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Middlesex Regiment, once more I thank you, and I am sorry for the valuable lives you have lost, and for the seriously wounded."

On the 16th June the brigade moved to Volksrust and encamped.

Telegrams of congratulation on the deliverance of Natal from the enemy, and on the conduct of the troops, which had been received by Sir Redvers Buller, were published in Army Orders, with his replies thereto. Among them were messages from Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the Governor and Prime Minister of Natal, and the Governor of Victoria.

Towards the end of June a flying column was organised to reconnoitre in the direction of Amersfoort, and, if possible, to occupy a position dominating that town.

The battalion, which formed part of the column, struck camp on 27th June, and moved south of the railway line ready to advance in the direction of Zandspruit. On the following day the 10th Brigade marched to Graskop, about 17 miles. On the 29th the advance towards Amersfoort took place, but the Boers were found in strength—especially in artillery—and in the evening the whole force retired under heavy shell fire to Graskop, "E" Company (who had occupied a high hill on the left of the advance and fired some long range volleys and also with maxim gun) forming the rear-guard. The 19th Hussars and Royal Dublin Fusiliers both sustained some casualties, but there were none in the Middlesex Regiment. On the 30th June the flying column was broken up, and on the following day the battalion returned to Volksrust.

The strength of the battalion on 1st July, 1900, was 29 officers and 1,255 other ranks. During June, 3 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 24 privates were invalided to England.

During the greater part of the month of July one half battalion remained at Volksrust, the other ("E," "G," "H," and Volunteer Companies), under Major Blake, with a machine gun detachment, moving out to a defensive position between Hout Nek and De Jager's Nek. Although not actually engaged during this time, the Boers were continually annoying our advanced cavalry posts, and there were frequent alarms. The position held was strengthened by entrenchments and sangars, and constant vigilance was necessary. The Volunteer Company rejoined headquarters on the 21st, but the remainder of the detachment remained on the Hout Nek position until relieved by the Lancashire Fusiliers before the battalion moved to Ingagane.

On the 21st July "A," "B," "C," and "D" Companies, under Major Lempriere, proceeded to Zandspruit in accordance with orders received from General Officer Commanding 5th Division.

The following troops also formed part of the column:—

19th Hussars (less half squadron).

69th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

No. 6 Company, Western Division Royal Garrison Artillery (with two 4.7 guns).

No. 37 Company, Royal Engineers.

Divisional Ammunition Column.

10th Brigade Bearer Company.

10th Brigade Field Hospital.

This force was under the command of the Officer Commanding 19th Hussars, and was the right column of three demonstrating towards Amersfoort, the whole force being commanded by Major-General Hildyard.

On the 21st the right column halted at Zandspruit, and

on the following day marched to Graskop, and on the 23rd moved across and joined the centre and left columns. On the 24th an advance was made towards Amersfoort, the Boers retiring. The companies of the battalion bivouacked on this night on the hills about five miles east of Paardekop, above Mooimeisjesfontein, and remained there until the 28th, when they returned to Landspruit, and on the 29th marched back to Volksrust.

The strength on the 1st August was 27 officers, 1 warrant officer, 1,199 other ranks. During the previous month 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 47 privates were invalided to England.

On the 4th August the battalion proceeded by rail to Ingagane, where five companies were stationed, "A" and "B" Companies, under command of Major Lempriere, moving to Dannhauser, and "C" and "D" Companies to Rooi Pynt, a post on the main road nearer Newcastle. A few days later "E" Company, under Major Savile, marched to Fort Macready, south of Newcastle, relieving a company of the Imperial Light Infantry, and on the 8th August "D" Company, under Captain Pemberton, proceeded to Newcastle, the right half company garrisoning Windsor Castle and the left Fort Haldane. Both these posts were on a ridge north of the town, the former being close to the railway line running from Newcastle to Laing's Nek, and also covering the wagon road to Utrecht via Wool's Drift.

On the 9th, Captain Storr took over the duties of commandant at Dannhauser from Major Lempriere, who proceeded with "B" Company to Sikofu, a small kopje situated about eight miles north-east of Newcastle in the valley of the Buffalo.

By the 10th August the whole battalion, except "A" Company, which remained at Dannhauser, was in and around Newcastle, "F" and "G" Companies occupying

the western forts, and "H" and Volunteer Companies being in the town, where they relieved the Imperial Light Infantry.

Colonel Hill was appointed to the command of the troops at Newcastle, Major Blake succeeding to that of the battalion.

The companies were distributed as under :—

"A" Company, Dannhauser.

"B" Company, Sikofu.

"C" Company, Signal Hill.

"D" Company, Windsor Castle and Fort Haldane.

"E" Company, Fort Macready.

"F" Company, Fort Hay.

"G" Company, Fort Metcalf.

"H" Company, Headquarters.

Volunteer Company, Headquarters.

On the 12th August the Boers blew up the railway about six miles from Fort Macready.

On the 13th a draft of Militia Reservists joined from England; strength, 3 corporals, 99 privates.

On the 19th "A" Company was withdrawn from Dannhauser to Ingagane, and on the following day to Rooi Pynt, but owing to an attack by Boers on Buffalo Flats, it was entrained at Ingagane and re-occupied Dannhauser at 1.20 a.m., 21st. At 2.15 a.m. the line was again blown up two miles north of the station, barely an hour after the train passed in which they were.

Firing was heard at Ingogo on the 20th, and the cavalry picquets were driven in; and on the 21st the Boers shelled the post at Donga Spruit, close to Sikofu, and blew up the railway line there. On the 22nd the cavalry from the post at Matthew's Farm, near the Utrecht road, reconnoitred towards Wool's Drift, and were driven back past their post,

which the Boers looted. "D" Company fired extreme range volleys from Windsor Castle, and the Boers stopped and dismounted out of range. Later, guns came out from Newcastle and shelled the enemy, who retired. The headquarters and companies in the defence camp, Newcastle, also moved out in support on this occasion, but did not come into contact with the enemy.

About this time the enemy was particularly active on the east side of Newcastle, their objective being the railway, which they wished to destroy. If their efforts had been successful an immense amount of delay would have been caused in forwarding supplies north. Attempts on the railway were favoured by the nature of the ground, which enabled the Boers to come up within rifle range unobserved; this entailed great vigilance on the part of the troops. The line was frequently patrolled, and, in addition, trenches were made close to the railway, in which the men slept at night. The whole of the troops stood to arms at daybreak every morning.

The strength of the battalion on 1st September was 26 officers, 1 warrant officer, 1,228 other ranks—5 sergeants, 2 corporals and 49 privates having been invalided to England during the preceding month.

On the 5th September, in conjunction with General Hildyard's occupation of Wakkerstroom, a reconnaissance was made towards Wool's Drift on the Buffalo River, and Umbana Hill, on the left bank of that river, was occupied by "E" and "F" Companies, who entrenched themselves there. Boers were seen in their front. Nothing worthy of note took place, and "E" Company returned to Newcastle on the 8th, followed on the 13th by the rest of the force, except "F" and "G" Companies, who remained at Umbana.

The undermentioned troops took part in this operation:

1st (Royal) Dragoons.

13th Hussars.

4 guns 19th Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

4 Companies 2nd Middlesex Regiment ("E," "F,"
"G," and "H").

1 Section Field Hospital.

On the 27th September, "H" Company and the Volunteer Company proceeded to Dundee en route for De Jager's Drift on the Buffalo, 18 miles north-east of Dundee. "A" Company followed to Dundee from Dannhauser on the 7th October, encamping on Talana Hill, and joining the two first-named companies at De Jager's Drift on the 18th. These companies remained there until the 11th November, when they returned to Dundee, and there picking up "G" Company (which had proceeded to Talana on 20th October), joined an ammunition column, etc., under Major Jervois, R.A., and marched on the 12th to Dannhauser, on the 13th to Ingagane, and on the 14th to Newcastle.

The strength of the battalion on the 1st October, 1900, was 30 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,185 other ranks. One corporal, one drummer, and 25 privates were invalided to England during the preceding month, and one corporal, time expired, was sent home during the same period.

While at Newcastle the men were occasionally practised in marching, and were frequently employed on convoy duty between Newcastle and Umbana, the "half way house" to Utrecht. Whenever possible, musketry practice took place. The companies at the outlying posts were not infrequently in contact with the Boers.

On the 5th October, "E" and "F" Companies, with two guns, marched out to cover the left flank of a convoy proceeding to Utrecht. These companies remained at Middlesex Hill and Umbana—covering Wool's Drift—until the 10th, when "F" Company returned to Newcastle,

"E" Company remaining till the end of December, when the battalion moved to Utrecht.

The defences of Umbana covering the bridge at Wool's Drift were improved, and the company was frequently employed, together with others from Newcastle, in the protection of convoys, and in reconnaissances. For this purpose companies were frequently moved out for two or three days, bivouacking at night. On these occasions great vigilance was necessary, as well as considerable force, as Boers were plentiful on the Transvaal side of the Buffalo, and on 16th November thirteen men of the York and Lancaster Regiment proceeding from Utrecht to Newcastle were captured between Utrecht and Umbana.

Orders were received on 23rd October to prepare a draft of 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 150 privates for the 1st Battalion in India. This was subsequently cancelled.

On the 1st November the strength of the battalion was 30 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,159 other ranks. During October 1 corporal and 18 privates were invalided to England, and 3 privates were sent home time expired.

On the 24th November, "F" Company, with an establishment as under, was formed into a Mounted Infantry Company:—

- 1 Captain.
- 1 Subaltern.
- 4 Sergeants.
- 4 Corporals.
- 2 Buglers.
- 50 Privates.
- 70 Horses.

Captain R. de H. Burton and Second-Lieutenant J. H. Furlong were the officers of the company on its formation. The establishment was subsequently raised and another subaltern added.

On the 29th November "G" Company formed the guard of honour, and "H" Company the cordon of police, on the occasion of Lord Roberts' visit to Newcastle.

The strength of the battalion on 1st December, 1900, was 31 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,118 other ranks. During November 1 sergeant and 19 privates were invalided, and 2 corporals and 14 privates were sent to England for discharge on the expiration of their period of service.

Owing to the frequent attacks on trains and attempts at train-wrecking, the following circular memorandum from Army Headquarters, dated Pretoria, 27th November, 1900, was published for information:—

"Instructions for officers and men travelling by rail.

"I. All officers and men travelling by train on all occasions must be fully armed.

"II. The senior officer travelling by train is responsible for its defence if attacked.

"III. For this purpose every officer travelling should satisfy himself whether he is the senior officer in the train or not.

"IV. The senior officer on the train should see that the men travelling by the train have their rifles handy, and that one or two men are detailed to keep a look out.

"V. It has lately been noticed that the enemy, when they attempt the capture of a train, ride up behind a train when it is going up a grade and detach the vacuum hose from the rear of the brake-van; they then open fire along both sides of the train to prevent anyone getting out.

"VI. To avoid this, a truck is attached to the rear of each train with the vacuum hose disconnected. If any troops are travelling on the train, the senior officer present should see that some of them are posted, if possible, on the rear truck.

“VII. Engine drivers have instructions to blow a long blast on the bass whistle if they have any reason to think that anything is wrong. Troops should be instructed to stand to arms on hearing this warning.

“VIII. When a delay occurs at any post on the line, the senior officer on the train will report personally to the commandant of the post.”

On the 13th December Major G. B. Lempriere assumed command of the battalion, Major Blake being placed on the sick list.

On the 13th December “G” Company relieved “B” Company at Sikofu, and on the 16th “H” Company marched to Utrecht.

The following order with reference to equipment was issued by Brigadier-General G. F. Burn-Murdoch on 20th December :—

“You will at once take steps to fully equip every officer, non-commissioned officer, and man in your battalion with a rifle or carbine, accoutrements, and ammunition. This includes all staff-sergeants, drummers, and stretcher-bearers, and is with a view to everybody taking a place in the defence line in case of attack.

“When stretcher-bearers are actually employed as such, they will be considered as under the Red Cross, and will not then carry their rifle or equipment.”

On the 24th December a battalion order was published enjoining increased vigilance, and all possible precautions, during the ensuing Christmas and New Year seasons, as it was considered probable that the enemy might take advantage of them to attack our posts.

On the night of the 25th-26th December, the Boers attacked Utrecht and entered the town, but were driven out, with loss, just before daybreak. “H” Company, who held a position on North Hill overlooking the town, did not

come under fire, as the enemy mistook that position. It was a bright, moonlight night. The attack was expected, and the troops consequently on the alert. Those occupying the trenches in front of the town withdrew into it about midnight, and took up positions round the Supply Depot and along hedges in the town. The Boers made for the trenches, the position of which they apparently knew, and found them, to their great surprise, empty. This caused some consternation, but their leaders assuring them that the soldiers were revelling in the town, they advanced, and were met by a well-directed fire, which caused them to retire. Their casualties were not known, but were believed to be heavy. On our side two men were wounded. The attack was executed under the leadership of Commandant Petrowsky, a Russian serving with the Boers, from whom the following letter was received on the eve of the attack by the Officer Commanding Troops, Utrecht:—

“ I hereby propose to make an agreement with you, since Christmastide is close at hand, namely, if you wish to enjoy a quiet Christmas at Utrecht you must send me a quantity of whisky, coffee, and flour to a neutral farm in the neighbourhood, from where I shall fetch it If you send me these things I promise on my word of honour that you shall have a quiet, undisturbed Christmas at Utrecht. If you do not, then rest assured that I shall fight you on the night of the 25th-26th December, and will not let you be unmolested. Awaiting your reply,

“ I have the honour, etc., etc.

“ P.S.—Please send the special answer to this to the farm of Long Piet (Uys).”

Commandant Petrowsky was mortally wounded in this very fight, died the following day, and was buried on Pudding Kop, a hill near Utrecht.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the whisky, coffee, etc., were not sent out.

In consequence of this attack on Utrecht, the whole battalion, except "B" Company, which remained at Newcastle, was moved to Utrecht, where there was an important supply depôt. Headquarters, "A," "D," and the Volunteer Companies, proceeded on the 26th, starting at 4 a.m., under command of Colonel Hill: "G" Company, from Sikofu, followed on the 28th, and "C" and "E" Companies on the 29th. "F" (M.I.) Company proceeded to Vryheid about this time.

The strength of the battalion on 1st January, 1901, was 34 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,077 other ranks. During the preceding month there were sent home 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 28 privates invalided, and 9 privates time expired.

The distribution of the companies at Utrecht in January was as follows:—

"A," "E," and "H" Companies on North Hill.

"C" Company on East Hill.

"D," "G," and Volunteer Companies in Utrecht town.

"B" Company remained at Newcastle, and "F" (M.I.) Company arrived at Utrecht from Vryheid about 20th January.

The Natal District Orders of 1st January published the following telegrams conveying New Year's greetings to the troops from Her Majesty Queen Victoria:—

"From V.R.I. to Lord Kitchener.

"My heartfelt good wishes to you and all ranks under your command for Christmas and the New Year."

To which Lord Kitchener replied:—

“ To Her Majesty the Queen.

“ Osborne.

“ Your Majesty’s most gracious message has been communicated to the troops. In their name I humbly beg to express our sincere hope that the New Year may prove one of great happiness to Your Majesty and the Royal Family.”

Orders were issued about this time that all outpost forts were to be surrounded by barbed wire entanglements to prevent their being rushed at night, and that at posts where there were horse-lines, the latter were to be similarly surrounded.

Captain and Adjutant H. F. MacEwan took over the duties (in addition to his own) of station staff officer, Utrecht, on 11th January, from Lieutenant Headlam, York and Lancaster Regiment. Captain H. Storr took over these duties from Captain MacEwan on 19th January.

On the 25th January, the melancholy news was received, in a telegram to the General Officer Commanding, from the Governor of Natal, of the death on the 22nd of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

The following telegrams were published for information on the 27th :—

“ From Edward Rex to Lord Kitchener.

“ Am much touched by your kind telegrams of sympathy, and beg you to convey thanks to my gallant army in South Africa.”

Lord Kitchener sent the following reply :—

“ Your Majesty’s gracious telegram has been communicated to the troops. On behalf of the army in South Africa, I humbly beg to express our feelings of the utmost loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty.”

M

The accession of His Majesty King Edward the Seventh of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Emperor of India, was proclaimed in London on the 24th January.

Orders were issued from Army Headquarters, Pretoria, that all officers were to wear the prescribed mourning in consequence of the death of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. A circular memorandum was, however, subsequently published directing officers not to wear mourning on out-post duty, or in the proximity of the enemy.

On the 1st February, 1901, the strength of the battalion was 34 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,051 other ranks. One sergeant, one corporal and 9 privates, invalids, and 7 privates, time expired, were sent to England during January.

The following extract from the "London Gazette" of 28th December, 1900, was published for information in Battalion Orders of 6th February:—

The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). Major-General and Honorary Lieutenant-General H. Kent to be colonel, vice General Sir G. H. S. Willis, G.C.B., deceased; dated 30th November, 1900.

On the 13th February a force moved out from Utrecht, under command of Brigadier-General J. F. Burn-Murdoch, C.B., with a convoy of 300 wagons containing supplies for a large force under General Sir J. D. P. French, K.C.B., which was at that time sweeping the Eastern Transvaal from north to south. This portion of the Transvaal lying to the east of Utrecht is very mountainous and peculiarly difficult at all times for military operations, and more especially so in the heavy rains which are common during the summer, and render it well nigh impassable for any kind of wheeled traffic.

The force was composed as under:—



LIEUT.-GENERAL HENRY KENT,
COLONEL,
THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN (MIDDLESEX REGIMENT).
1900—PRESENT DATE.



LIEUT. GENERAL HENRY KENT,
C. I. S. I.
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, D. C.
U. S. ARMY, 1914

1 Squadron 1st (Royal) Dragoons.

500 men Natal Volunteer Composite Regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Evans, Border Mounted Rifles.

1 Section 19th Battery, R.F.A., with two 12pdr. guns.

*1 Company Royal Lancaster Regiment.

*4 Companies 2nd Middlesex Regiment.

(A, B,† E, H)

*2 Companies York and Lancaster Regiment.

*1 Company Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

On the first day the force marched to Knight's Farm, on the Belelasberg, about five miles south-east of Utrecht, where the Boers were surprised and lost eight killed. The British had one man of the Volunteer Composite Regiment wounded. Rain began to fall heavily on the departure of the column, and the ascent of the hill (four miles long) up the Berg, on which is Knight's Farm, was rendered most difficult for the wagons. Serious delay was caused, as each wagon required four span of oxen to get up the ascent.

On the 14th, the column remained at Knight's Farm waiting for the convoy to come up. Trenches were dug during the day. The mist was dense, and the Boers, knowing the country well, could have attacked any moment, as they were in close proximity.

On the 15th the wagons had all arrived, and the force moved forward to One Tree Hill, about eight miles further on towards the Elandsberg, but at a very slow rate, as the rains continued to fall, and the roads, or rather tracks, resembled bogs more than anything else.

The mounted troops were far in advance, and the infantry were disposed as under :—

*Under command of Major G. W. W. Savile, 2nd Middlesex Regiment, with Lieutenant H. E. Welch as Staff Officer.

†"B" Company came in from Newcastle, and was commanded by Captain E. S. Roche, of the Volunteer Company.

- 4 Companies in front.
- 2 Companies on the flanks.
- 2 Companies as rear guard.

The rearguard arrived at One Tree Hill at midnight, everybody and everything completely wet through. In spite of this, however, and of being without blankets or great coats, and in spite of being on half-rations, the troops were cheerful.

On the following day the advance was continued. It was still raining hard. Everywhere were seen indications of the hasty retreat of the Boers, freshly killed sheep and poultry being left hanging on trees. These were gladly annexed by the troops, who were still on half-rations.

Up to the 17th February only 10 miles had been accomplished. It was still raining, and the clothes of the troops were completely saturated, as well as their equipment, thus adding considerably to the weight carried by the men. On the 18th a halt was ordered, as it was still raining in torrents, and on the 19th, 20th, and 21st only eight miles in all were accomplished. It was then decided to divide the convoy into three portions, as owing to the frequent breaks down, due to the awful state of the country, it was found impossible to bring on the whole at once, and the force for which the provisions were intended was running very short of food. The column still continued on half—and sometimes quarter—rations.

No further progress could be made on the 22nd owing to continued rain. On the 23rd the troops endeavoured to improve a drift over a swollen river, but after all it was found impossible to get wagons across, so one wagon-load of biscuits was hauled over by ropes. Quarter rations of tea and coffee were issued.

On the morning of the 24th the sun appeared, and the troops broke out in a cheer, so welcome was the sight after

ten continuous days of rain and mist. The wagons were able to move on about three miles, when they were unloaded, and the supplies passed over a river by means of a raft to General Dartnell's column, who were eagerly awaiting them. The scale of rations for the Utrecht column was now $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. tea, $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. jam per man. Fresh meat was plentiful, but there was no salt.

On the morning of 2nd March the rain began again. Large numbers of prisoners, surrendered Burghers, families and stock, were sent through to Utrecht, where a Burgher camp was formed. The enemy were now threatening the column and convoy, but our guns soon scattered them.

On the 7th March full rations were issued for the first time since leaving Utrecht, but on the following day the force was again on short rations, and the rain came down in torrents.

On the 9th, after four days and three nights of continuous rain, the weather cleared up for a time, and on the 17th the return march to Utrecht was commenced, the Boers "sniping" the convoy all day. Utrecht was reached on 24th March.

The hardships of this expedition were unquestionably far greater than any previously experienced during the campaign by the four companies of the battalion, and indeed probably by the whole of the troops who took part in it. It rained in torrents for nearly the whole time, and the want of rations, and being continuously wet through, were seriously felt. In addition, the knowledge that the delay in getting the convoy through seriously imperilled the success of General French's operations, added to the physical hardships which were well borne by the troops.

Knight's Farm being now permanently occupied, the post on East Hill became unnecessary, and was abandoned.

The companies at the end of March were distributed as follows:—

“A,” “B,” and “C” Companies Knight’s Farm.
 “D” and “E” Companies North Hill.
 “F,” “G,” “H,” and Volunteer Companies and Headquarters Utrecht Town.

The strength of the battalion on 1st March, 1901, was 33 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,005 other ranks. Two sergeants, 3 corporals, and 30 privates were invalided to England during February.

On 9th March Captain H. Storr was appointed adjutant of the battalion, vice Captain MacEwan, who resigned the appointment.

By Newcastle Sub-district Orders of 26th March, it was directed that a reserve of seven days’ supplies for the garrison occupying it should be kept in each fort.

The strength of the battalion on 1st April, 1901, was 36 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 956 other ranks. Two sergeants, 1 drummer, and 17 privates invalided, and 15 privates, time expired, were sent to England during March.

On the 22nd April “D” Company proceeded to Beacon Hill, an important point on the Belelasberg, about 10 miles from, and some 2,500 feet higher than, Utrecht, to establish a post there, and to protect the working party constructing the fort. The company remained there until relieved on the 30th April by a detachment of the Utrecht Mounted Police. On the subsequent disbandment of this force, the battalion again furnished the garrison for this post during the remainder of their stay in Utrecht.

“G” Company, under Captain Eustace, marched on the 26th April to Umbana, shortly afterwards proceeding to Koenigsberg, a post about 11 miles south-west of Newcastle, near the Drakensberg.

The strength of the battalion on 1st May, 1901, was 37 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 929 other ranks. During April there were sent to England 2 corporals and 11 privates, invalids, 1 sergeant and 5 privates, time expired, and 1 private, a prisoner.

On the 4th May the Second Volunteer Service Company arrived at Headquarters for duty.

This company was composed as under:—

Captain A. A. C. Selfe, 2nd Volunteer Battalion
Middlesex Regiment.

Lieutenant R. M. Williams, 2nd Volunteer Battalion
Middlesex Regiment.

Lieutenant W. M. Stavers, 1st Volunteer Battalion
Middlesex Regiment.

Sergeant-Instructor Coppard.

4 Sergeants.

1 Lance-Sergeant.

4 Corporals.

4 Lance-Corporals.

1 Drummer.

75 Privates.

The company took up a position in the Town defences.

“C” Company, under Major R. de H. Burton, proceeded on 5th May to Umbana in relief of “G” Company, which moved to Koenigsberg.

The following valedictory order was published by Colonel A. W. Hill on the departure of the First Volunteer Service Company for England:—

“Colonel Hill cannot part with Captain Roche and his Volunteer Company without conveying to them the sincere regret of all ranks in the battalion at losing their gallant services, and he takes this opportunity of congratulating them on the good work they have performed during the last thirteen months in the field.

"No company or battalion commander could wish for a better lot of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, and the splendid way in which they have assisted to maintain the glorious traditions of the battalion in particular, and the Army in general, will, he hopes, be ever remembered with pride and satisfaction by them and their comrades.

"In wishing them 'good-bye' and a speedy and safe return home to their families and friends, he can only say that wherever the battalion may henceforth be stationed it will ever be ready to bestow a hearty welcome on any or all of them."

The company left Utrecht on the 7th, and sailed for England in the ss. "Custodian" on the 11th May, strength as under:—

Captain C. S. Roche.

Lieutenant C. D'O. A. C. Bowers.

52 Non-commissioned officers and men.

On the 25th May, Colonel A. W. Hill relinquished command of the battalion, having completed his period of command.

Major G. B. Lempriere succeeded to the temporary command of the battalion, and of the troops at Utrecht, Major Blake having also proceeded to England on retirement.

Colonel Hill issued the following farewell order on proceeding to England:—

"In saying 'good-bye' to the battalion, Colonel Hill desires to thank all ranks in it for the hearty support they at all times afforded him; he leaves it and the regiment in which he has served for over 28 years with the deepest regret, but with confidence that it will ever maintain the high reputation it has hitherto borne, and that his successor, whoever he may be, will realise the proud and

honourable position of commanding a battalion of such sterling good quality. His disappointment in not being able to take the battalion home is very great, but he sincerely wishes one and all every success, and a speedy and safe return home to the 'old country' so dear to all.

"His interest in the regiment will not cease with his departure from it. He trusts that that will be realised, and that, should it ever be in his power to extend a welcome to any of his old comrades, he will be glad to do so.

"God bless you."

The strength of the battalion on 1st June, 1901, was 34 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 963 other ranks. There were sent home during May, 1 private, invalided, and 1 corporal and 4 privates, time expired.

The strength of the battalion on 1st July, 1901, was 37 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 936 other ranks. During June, 1 sergeant and 22 privates, invalids, and 2 privates, time expired, were sent home.

The medal rolls of the battalion were forwarded to the War Office on 15th July, 1901, and contained the names of 59 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 1,631 other ranks as entitled to the Queen's South African War Medal.

Permission was at the same time given by Army Orders, South Africa, dated 8th July, 1901, to all those whose names were included in the medal roll to wear the ribbon of the medal.

Six Boers were captured near Beacon Hill on the 20th July.

Some of the band instruments having been got up from the base, the band once more started practice, and played on church parade, at officers' mess, on Sunday afternoons, etc., much to the delight of the inhabitants of Utrecht.

It may be convenient here to give a short description of

the position at Utrecht, and of the state of affairs which prevailed in the South-Eastern Transvaal at this period.

The war had reached the guerilla stage. Our troops were in possession of all the principal towns, strategic points, and lines of railway, while on the side of the Boers there were numerous commandoes, living on the country and moving about from district to district as food for man and beast became more or less plentiful, attacking isolated posts and convoys, endeavouring to blow up railways, etc. Some of these bands, *e.g.*, Louis Botha's, which at this time was in the South-Eastern Transvaal, amounted to 1,500 or 2,000 men, all determined fighters, and supplied with the very best information by means of their Kaffir scouts.

It was to prevent these commandoes passing freely over the country that the blockhouse lines were instituted, and the duties of our troops were to hold these lines and the depôts formed for supplying the mobile columns employed in "drives" and in surrounding commandoes when they could be located, and in preventing the Boers from making use of the farms and country in their vicinity as bases of supply, and localities for rest and refreshment. As a means to this end, all farms within the radii of our "effective occupation" were cleared of their inhabitants, who were sent generally to concentration camps, or allowed to live in the towns in British occupation.

Utrecht was one of these, and after the departure of the District Commissioner (for whose administration the country was scarcely yet ready), a large, and in fact the principal, part of the duties of the Officer Commanding the Troops was in connection with questions of civil administration, grazing within protected areas, and cultivation. These duties, as well as the defence of the town, devolved upon the Officer Commanding the Battalion, assisted by

his station staff officer, the actual command of the battalion being delegated to the second-in-command.

Utrecht was held as an advanced post, and supply depôt. It is situated in a sort of amphitheatre, at the mouth of a valley in the Belelasberg, a lofty ridge forming the north-eastern boundary of the valley of the Buffalo. In consequence of this position it was necessary to occupy the hills on either side, which was effectively done by the "North Hill" and "Knight's Farm" positions. A post was also established at Weltevreden, about three miles north-east of Utrecht in the valley above alluded to, barring the road to Thabankulu, a lofty mountain in possession of the enemy.

The Knight's Farm position consisted of five forts, in addition to the farm buildings, which were fortified as a central reduit. The forts were named as follows:—

North Fort.
 Fort Luneberg.
 Fort Middlesex.
 South Fort.
 The Bluff.

Each fort was garrisoned by from 8 to 20 men, and there were in addition a detachment of mounted infantry and one of artillery, with two 12pdr. quick-firing guns.

At North Hill were Forts "Robinson," "Hodgson," "Stewart," and "Andrews," with a naval 12pdr. in the first named.

At Beacon Hill the garrison consisted of 1 officer and 20 infantry, and a similar detachment of mounted infantry.

Weltevreden was garrisoned by one officer and 15 other ranks.

The forts round the town were as follows, starting from the river on the north side of the town:—

Fort Storr.
 Fort Pemberton.

Fort Oliver.
Fort Savile.
Fort Lempriere.
Fort Lumley.
Fort Blake.
Fort Piper.
Fort Hill.
Fort Steed.
The River Guard.

The object of these forts was to give cover from infantry fire, to minimise the danger of posts being rushed, and to shelter the men.

They would, of course, owing to their small size and the nature of their construction, have been useless against artillery, but at this period of the war, the enemy no longer had guns. They varied much in construction; many of those at the detached positions on the Berg were regular block-houses; those around the town consisted mostly of a simple parapet of stones or earth with head cover; all were surrounded with barbed wire, and latterly a wire entanglement connected all the town forts, and ingress or egress to or from the town was only possible at certain points.

Wherever possible a system of signalling, semaphore or otherwise, was established between the forts. Outside the forts trenches were dug for occupation by the garrisons in the unlikely event of artillery fire being brought against them. An inner line of defence was organised immediately round the Supply Store and the central portion of the town itself. This consisted of trenches, with barbed wire obstacles in front. The station of the Officer Commanding troops was at the Court House, which was connected by telephone with the outposts at Knight's Farm, Beacon Hill, North Hill and Weltevreden, and by telegraph with Newcastle.

Great attention was paid to the sanitary conditions of the forts, especially during the hot weather, and Officers Commanding companies were held responsible that every precaution was taken to this effect. The shelters in the forts were not allowed to be occupied during the day, tents being pitched outside for the men to rest and take their meals in. These were struck at night so as not to obstruct the fire or view in case of attack. All bedding was removed daily and well aired. It was doubtless due to these precautions that the health of the battalion continued so good. The companies at the outlying forts and in the town were changed periodically.

The troops were very frequently engaged in the protection of convoys, a somewhat irksome duty, and from time to time strong patrols, mostly composed of Mounted Infantry, moved out to clear farms where Boers were reported, or to capture arms or stock.

On the 1st August, 1901, the strength of the battalion was 39 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 900 other ranks. During July there were sent home 1 sergeant, 1 drummer and 18 privates, invalids, and 7 privates time expired.

On the 4th August, Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Lumley arrived from India and took over command of the battalion and of the troops at Utrecht.

During August, 1 corporal and 2 privates were invalided to England, and 1 sergeant and 10 privates were sent home time expired, and the strength on the 1st September, 1901, was 39 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 888 other ranks.

Major N. W. Barnardiston joined on 31st August on appointment as second-in-command of the battalion; and Major Lempriere having been appointed Commandant of the General Dépôt at Pietermaritzburg proceeded to take up his appointment on the 9th September.

On the 18th September a draft joined, strength as under, to supplement the Volunteer Service Company:—

Lieutenant H. V. Kershaw, 17th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers.

5 Non-commissioned officers.

19 Privates.

For convenience of payment, etc., this was styled the Third Volunteer Company.

During September, 1 sergeant and 10 privates, invalids, and 1 sergeant and 8 privates, time expired, were sent to England. The strength on 1st October, 1901, was 38 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 867 other ranks, and on the 1st November 37 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 845 other ranks, 10 invalids, 8 time expired, and 2 prisoners having left South Africa during October.

On the 17th November "C" Company, under Major Burton, relieved "G" Company at Koenigsberg, the latter under command of Captain Eustace returning to Umbana.

On the 1st December, 1901, the strength of the battalion stood at 40 officers, 1 warrant officer and 818 other ranks. One sergeant and 23 privates were invalidated, and 6 privates sent home time expired during November.

A draft, which was much wanted, arrived under command of Major C. R. Dyer from England on the 7th December; strength, 2 sergeants, 4 corporals and 169 privates, bringing up the strength of the battalion to 35 officers,

1902. 1 warrant officer, and 980 other ranks on 1st January, 1902. One sergeant, 1 corporal and 6 privates, time expired, and 2 invalids went home during December, 1901.

"E" Company, under Major Savile, had proceeded in December to Quagga's Nek, a post on the Drakensberg, north-west of Newcastle, where the construction of a new block-house line was in progress.

On the 6th January, Major Dyer rejoined headquarters from Koenigsberg and assumed command of the battalion vice Major Barnardiston proceeded to England on appointment as Military Attaché at Brussels and the Hague.

The strength of the battalion on 1st February, 1902, was 32 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 950 other ranks. During the preceding month there were sent home 1 sergeant, and 13 privates, invalids, 1 corporal and 10 privates, time expired, and 2 privates prisoners.

On the 1st February, a patrol of the Mounted Infantry Company, under Lieutenant J. Whiteman, fell into an ambush about five miles from Knight's Farm and sustained the following casualties:—

Killed—No. 5111 Private W. Blazier.

Captured (subsequently released)—Lieutenant J. Whiteman, Privates Saunders, Shaw, Reeves, Gage, Otton and Aldon.

On the 6th February, another patrol of the Mounted Infantry Company, under Lieutenant J. St. John Secker, and the garrison of Beacon Hill, were engaged with superior numbers of the enemy, and Lieutenant Secker (who was slightly wounded), Sergeant Barton and Private Dignum fell into the hands of the enemy, but were released the same day.

With reference to the above affairs the following battalion order was published on the 13th February:—

“The Commanding Officer having gone carefully into the evidence regarding the capture of a portion of a Mounted Infantry patrol under Lieutenant Whiteman on the 1st February wishes to place on record his appreciation of the excellent behaviour of all ranks under trying circumstances, and especially of the gallantry displayed by Lieutenant Whiteman, No. 5273 Private T. Saunders and No. 5961 Private J. Gage.”

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On the 12th April the following letter, also having reference to these captures, from the Adjutant-General, Army Headquarters, dated Pretoria, 4th April, 1902, was published for information:—

“ To G.O.C., Natal.

“ The proceedings of Courts of Enquiry on the under-mentioned officers, non-commissioned officers and men were forwarded to the War Office on 4th April, 1902.

“ All the officers, non-commissioned officers and men have been exonerated by the Courts from any blame as to their capture.

“ Please notify the Officer Commanding the unit to which they belong.

Regtl. No.	Rank and Name.	Place and date of capture.		
	Lieut. J. St. John Secker	Near Utrecht		6-2-02
3658	Sergt. E. Barton	”	”	”
5070	Pte. T. Dignum	”	”	”
	Lieut. J. Whiteman	”	”	1-2-02
5273	Pte. T. Saunders	”	”	”
5346	Pte. W. Shaw	”	”	”
5477	Pte. M. Reeves	”	”	”
5961	Pte. J. Gage	”	”	”
6003	Pte. J. W. Otton	”	”	”
6005	Pte. H. Aldon	”	”	”

“ Lieutenant-General Lyttelton considers that Lieutenant Whiteman and the men captured with him behaved in a plucky manner, and were instrumental in rendering the escape of the others possible by sacrificing themselves.”

On the 7th February, Captain Selfe, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 2 lance-corporals, and 34 privates of the Volunteer Company volunteered for service with the 14th

Battalion Mounted Infantry, and left Utrecht to join that command on the 10th idem.

Negotiations for surrender on the part of the Boers were now commencing, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lumley went to Knight's Farm on the 15th February to confer with General Louis Botha, who came in under a flag of truce.

The strength of the battalion on 1st March, 1902, was 35 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 924 other ranks. There were sent home during the preceding month 2 corporals and 17 privates invalids, and 2 privates time expired.

A draft from the 1st Battalion in India, under Lieutenant H. P. G. Cochran, arrived on the 3rd March: it consisted of 4 sergeants, 6 corporals, and 140 privates, and a draft of similar strength for the 1st Battalion left Utrecht for Durban on the following day under command of the same officer.

The strength of the battalion on 1st April, 1902, was 35 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 897 other ranks. During March 1 sergeant and 17 privates, invalids, and 2 sergeants and 6 privates, time expired, were sent home.*

On the 29th May the Second Volunteer Company, under Lieutenant Williams, left Utrecht for Durban, *en route* for England. They sailed from Durban in the ss. "Syria" on 20th June.

On the 1st June a telegram was received from the Brigade-Major, Newcastle, conveying the joyful news that Peace had been signed on the previous night.

To celebrate the occasion, every man in the command was allowed to draw anything he wished for at the Field Force Canteen up to a value of one shilling and sixpence.

On the 2nd June urgent orders were received to select

*From the date of landing in South Africa, to the 31st March, 1902, 25 sergeants, 3 drummers, and 488 rank and file were invalided home.

immediately from the battalion a representative detachment of 1 officer, 3 non-commissioned officers, and 7 privates (Reservists) to be present at the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward. The men to represent units were to be selected for good and distinguished conduct in the field, and were to proceed at once to Cape Town to embark on the "Bavarian."

The undernamed were selected, and left Utrecht at 9 p.m. on the same day (the order having been received about 6 p.m.):—

Lieutenant H. E. Welch.
 No. 3150 Sergeant H. Lunn.
 No. 3357 Sergeant E. Tilley.
 No. 3658 Sergeant E. Barton.
 No. 1579 Private W. Read.
 No. 2665 Private H. Holdway.
 No. 2716 Private A. Thorn.
 No. 2756 Private W. Smith.
 No. 2854 Private S. Goff.
 No. 3241 Private A. Drake.
 No. 7293 Private J. F. Bartram.

The following telegram was received by Officer Commanding Troops, Utrecht, from Lord Kitchener, on 3rd June:—

"2nd June. Please communicate to your troops the following gracious message which I have received from His Majesty the King, and for which I have thanked him in the name of all concerned. Begins—'Heartiest congratulations on the termination of hostilities. I also congratulate my brave troops under your command for having brought this long and difficult campaign to so glorious and successful a conclusion.' Ends."

Telegrams from the Secretary of State for War, and

from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, were also received by Lord Kitchener, and communicated to the troops.

On the 21st June, "A," "B," "D," and "G" Companies, and those non-commissioned officers and men of "F" and "H" Companies eligible to be sent home on demobilization, the whole under Major C. R. Dyer, proceeded to Newcastle, and on the following day Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Lumley resumed command of the battalion, having handed over the command of Utrecht.

Lord Kitchener issued a valedictory order on leaving South Africa on the 23rd June, and again sent a telegram to Brigadier-General J. F. Burn-Murdoch, C.B. (published in Newcastle Sub-District Orders of 24th June), thanking all ranks and wishing all good-bye and good luck. He was succeeded in the command of the troops in South Africa by Lieutenant-General the Hon. N. G. Lyttelton, C.B., formerly commanding the Natal District—headquarters Newcastle.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lumley published the following battalion order on the departure for home of the first party of Reservists and time expired men on 29th June:—

"The Commanding Officer deeply regrets he cannot be with the regiment to say good-bye to the first draft for home. He desires to convey to them his sense of their admirable conduct while he has had the honour to command them, and to wish them God-speed and best good luck on their return to England."

One hundred non-commissioned officers and men, under Major G. W. W. Savile, D.S.O., and Captain G. W. Bentley, proceeded to England in the ss. "Arundel Castle" on 1st August, and 100 men, under Majors L. G. Oliver and R. de H. Burton, in the ss. "Goth" on the following day.

In Battalion Orders of 14th August was published a

letter from Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, V.C., K.G., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Commander-in-Chief, transmitting copies of communications received by him from the Lord Chancellor and the Speaker of the House of Commons, conveying the thanks of Parliament to His Majesty's Forces for their gallant and distinguished services during the late war, and expressing their admiration of the valour, devotion, and conduct of those officers and men who perished during the campaign in the service of the Empire, and their deep sympathy with the relatives and friends. Lord Roberts also forwarded copies of his replies thereto, and requested all might be communicated to the troops.

On the same day was also published the King's message to his people on the eve of his Coronation.

On the 16th August, 160 non-commissioned officers and men, under Captain C. E. Pemberton and Lieutenant N. E. G. Willoughby, proceeded to Durban and embarked for England in the ss. "Soudan" on demobilization, and on the 1st September the Mounted Infantry Companies of the 3rd and 4th Battalions, under Captain G. W. Haslehurst, which had been serving with the 21st Battalion Mounted Infantry, were taken on the strength of the battalion.

Lieutenant J. Whiteman and 50 non-commissioned officers and men sailed from Durban on 23rd October in the ss. "Montrose," *en route* to join the 1st Battalion in India. Lieutenant Whiteman returned after handing over the draft, and rejoined on 25th December, 1902.

On 1st December Captain H. N. Blakeney, D.S.O., assumed command of the battalion, vice Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Lumley, proceeding to England on leave of absence, and on 9th December Major R. de H. Burton, who returned from leave of absence, took over command from Captain Blakeney.

The following Battalion Order was published on 11th December:—

“The Commanding Officer wishes to bring to notice of all ranks in the battalion the following:—

“Major-General R. S. R. Fetherstonhaugh, C.B., Commanding Natal District, yesterday told me the battalion was the best he had, and expressed his satisfaction at the healthy appearance and state of the men, due to their own conduct and exertions.

“The General authorised me to make this known, which I do with much pleasure.”

On the 3rd January, 1903, a notification was received that the battalion would embark at Durban on H.M.T. “Staffordshire” on the 25th January for conveyance to England.

The battalion embarked on 23rd January, and sailed the following day (the third anniversary of Spion Kop), strength as under:—

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel G. B. Lempriere
(in command).

Major R. de H. Burton.

Major H. M. Eustace, D.S.O.

Captain C. E. Pemberton.

Lieutenant W. A. Stewart.

Lieutenant N. E. G. Willoughby.

Lieutenant C. B. Thompson.

Lieutenant J. Whiteman.

Lieutenant D. W. Churchill.

Lieutenant D. C. Owen.

Second-Lieutenant W. H. Samuel.

Second-Lieutenant C. A. S. Page.

Second-Lieutenant A. M. O. A. Passingham.

Second-Lieutenant R. N. Lefroy.

Captain and Brevet Major and Adjutant H. Storr.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster F. Allam.

Sergeant-Major F. S. Steed.

44 Sergeants.

9 Drummers.

41 Corporals.

260 Privates.

1 Woman.

On leaving Durban Harbour an Austrian man-of-war manned yards, and her band played the British National Anthem and the crew gave three hearty cheers. The band on board the "Staffordshire," composed of our own and that of the Royal Scots Fusiliers (a battalion of which regiment, as also of the Connaught Rangers, was on board) played the Austrian hymn, and our men also cheered.

The "Staffordshire" arrived at Southampton after a fine passage on the morning of the 16th February, 1903, and the troops immediately disembarked. Lieutenant-General Henry Kent, the colonel of the regiment, welcomed his old battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Lempriere called for three cheers—and another—for the General, which were heartily given.

The battalion then entrained for Hounslow.



APPENDIX.

THE MOUNTED INFANTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.*

In the latter half of 1900 several corps of Mounted Infantry were formed. The battalion furnished detachments for two of these, viz.: the 5th Division Mounted Infantry, and the 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry, in addition to the regimental company of Mounted Infantry.

The number of mounted men thus furnished by the battalion aggregated considerably over 200, and as the various Mounted Infantry detachments had to be maintained at their full strength, this constituted a serious drain on the companies of the battalion, especially during the last year of the war.

The 5th Division Mounted Infantry consisted of four companies formed from the battalions in the 10th and 11th Brigades, which comprised the 5th Division. It was employed almost entirely in the South-Eastern Transvaal and along the Zululand border.

The detachment furnished by the battalion consisted of two officers (Lieutenant P. M. Large and Second-Lieutenant H. M. Meyler), two sergeants, five corporals, nine lance-corporals, two drummers and 73 privates, and formed part of "C" Company. The detachment proceeded to Volksrust to join the 5th Division Mounted Infantry on 17th August, 1900.

In an action near Blood River on 17th March, 1901, the

*From Official Records of Battalion.

company lost one man killed (No. 5103 Private W. Furlong) and had two men slightly wounded (No. 3166 Private S. Knight and No. 5719 Private F. Pay).

This company took an active part in the battle at Mount Prospect (Zululand) and the defence of Fort Itala on 26th September, 1901. In this action, in which the Boers suffered a very severe defeat, some 80 men of the battalion were present under command of Captain P. M. Large. Their casualties were :—

Killed—No. 5552 Private J. H. Davy.

Wounded—No. 3162 Private J. Davis. No. 5197 Private W. Taylor.

This company was subsequently amalgamated with the Regimental Mounted Infantry Company about September, 1902, and formed part of the 10th Battalion Mounted Infantry stationed at Vryheid. It rejoined the battalion in January, 1903.

The 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry formed part of the 5th Mounted Infantry Corps, and was formed in November, 1900. The detachment furnished by the battalion to the 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry, consisted of two officers (Second-Lieutenants B. A. Moeller and H. P. Hilton), 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 1 drummer, and 45 privates, and left Newcastle on 24th November, 1900, arriving at Pretoria on 26th. Here it formed (with a detachment of the Manchester Regiment) No. 2 Company, 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry, under command of Major Heigham, East Yorks Regiment, who, when inspecting the company on 4th December, congratulated the men on their smartness and said they were the best equipped lot who had yet come up. The detachment did not all receive their horses until 28th December, but Lieutenants Moeller and Hilton with a few men took part in the operations west of Pretoria.

between the 13th and 26th December, 1900, under Brigadier-General R. A. P. Clements, D.S.O.

The 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry (with the 13th Battalion Mounted Infantry), under command of Colonel Jenner, D.S.O., Rifle Brigade, took part in the operations in the country west of Pretoria during January, 1901, and on the 23rd of that month started to participate in the great sweeping movement under General Sir J. D. P. French, K.C.B., in the Eastern and South-Eastern Transvaal down to the Zululand border, lasting till the end of March and remarkable for the great hardships endured owing to the natural difficulties of the country, the continuous rain, and the absence of rations.

At Holland's Farm, Transvaal (not far from Standerton), the 14th Battalion Mounted Infantry suffered very severely in an action with the Boers on the 19th December, 1901, the detachment from the Middlesex Regiment losing one man killed (No. 3013 Private T. W. Nash) and Lieutenant B. A. W. C. Moeller, dangerously wounded. He died of his wounds on the 23rd December, in No. 17 General Hospital at Standerton.

The battalion sustained a heavy loss in the death of this zealous and promising young officer.

The movements of the Regimental Company of Mounted Infantry (F) have been chronicled with those of the other companies of the battalion.

HONOURS AND REWARDS GRANTED TO THE BATTALION FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.*

The following officers and men were mentioned in the despatches published in the "London Gazette" of the 8th February, 1901 :—

Brevet-Colonel A. W. Hill.

Major G. B. Lempriere.

Major G. W. W. Savile.

Lieutenant and Adjutant H. F. MacEwan

(who carried a wounded private of the Scottish Rifles out of action under heavy fire at Spion Kop).

No. 2178 Private E. Wischhusen, who picked up a live shell which had fallen among the troops at Spion Kop and threw it over the cliff.

No. 2574 Private (Lance-Corporal) J. E. B. Gilmore, who collected and took command of a number of men who were without officers at Spion Kop.

No. 3491 Private W. Boyd, for an act similar to the above at Spion Kop.

The following rewards were published in the "London Gazette," dated 19th April, 1901, to bear date 29th November, 1900 :—

Brevet-Colonel A. W. Hill to be a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Major G. W. W. Savile to be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

The following to have the medal for Distinguished Service in the Field :—

No. 3491 Private W. Boyd.

No. 2574 Private J. E. B. Gilmore.

*From Official Records of Battalion.

The following officers, non-commissioned officers and men were mentioned in the despatches published in the "London Gazette" of the 10th September, 1901 :—

- Major N. J. R. Blake.
- Major W. Scott-Moncrieff.
- Major G. B. Lempriere.
- Captain H. M. Eustace.
- Captain C. E. Pemberton.
- Captain H. N. Blakeney.
- Captain G. A. Bridgman.
- Captain C. S. Roche (17th Middlesex Volunteer Rifles).
- Lieutenant D. C. Percy Smith.
- Lieutenant and Quartermaster T. Piper.
- No. 656 Quartermaster-Sergeant F. Allam.
- No. 1404 Quartermaster - Sergeant (Orderly - Room-Sergeant) E. H. Amor.
- No. 1595 Colour-Sergeant J. Betteley.
- No. 2245 Colour-Sergeant R. E. Evans.
- No. 2587 Colour-Sergeant J. Glass.
- No. 2516 Colour-Sergeant W. J. Jack.
- No. 2658 Sergeant E. Barton.
- No. 2738 Sergeant A. E. Foster (killed in action).
- No. 4573 Sergeant P. Gray.
- No. 2994 Sergeant F. Foster.
- No. 3019 Sergeant W. Highton.
- No. 2618 Sergeant A. Morey.
- No. 2143 Sergeant J. Murphy (killed in action).
- No. 3193 Sergeant H. A. Wiemers.
- No. 3904 Sergeant W. Willcox.
- No. 5023 Corporal E. Davenport.
- No. 5503 Lance-Corporal W. H. Stickland.
- No. 2854 Private S. Goff.
- No. 2922 Private W. C. Miller.
- No. 2178 Private E. Wischhusen.

188 RECORDS OF THE 2ND BN. MIDDLESEX REGT.

The following rewards were published in the "London Gazette" of the 27th September, 1901, to bear date 29th November, 1900:—

To be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order:—

Major N. J. R. Blake.
Captain H. M. Eustace.
Captain H. N. Blakeney.
Lieutenant D. C. Percy Smith.

To be Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel:—

Major G. B. Lempriere.

To have the medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field:—

No. 656 Quartermaster-Sergeant F. Allam.
No. 1595 Colour-Sergeant J. Betteley.
No. 2245 Colour-Sergeant R. E. Evans.
No. 3019 Sergeant W. Highton.
No. 3904 Sergeant W. Willcox.
No. 5503 Lance-Corporal W. H. Stickland.
No. 2178 Private E. Wischhusen.

The following officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers were mentioned in the despatches published in the "London Gazette" of the 29th July, 1902:—

Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Lumley.
Major R. de H. Burton.
Captain and Adjutant H. Storr.
Captain P. M. Large.
Lieutenant J. Whiteman.
No. 1078 Sergeant-Major F. S. Steed.
No. 6435 Colour-Sergeant N. A. L. Bailey.
No. 2752 Colour-Sergeant B. G. Watkins

(who was brought to the notice of the General Commanding-in-Chief for skill and prompt action at Beacon Hill, whereby he prevented the capture of a patrol).

No. 2323 Colour-Sergeant A. G. Andrews.

No. 6535 Farrier-Sergeant A. Blakeston.

The following rewards were published in the "London Gazette" of the 31st October, 1902, to bear date 22nd August, 1902:—

Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Lumley to be a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

Captain H. Storr to be Brevet-Major.

Sergeant-Major F. S. Steed to have the medal for Distinguished Service in the Field.



SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL.

On the 29th May, 1906, a memorial tablet, inscribed with the names of the six officers and 107 non-commissioned officers and men who had lost their lives while serving with the battalion in South Africa, was unveiled in the Crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of a number of past and present officers and soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment, by Lieutenant-General Kent, who, in committing the memorial to the charge of the Dean and Chapter, addressed those present as follows:—

“We are met together on this solemn occasion by the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of this glorious Cathedral, for which I beg to thank them most gratefully, to dedicate, and to consecrate, a memorial to our dear departed comrades of the 2nd Battalion, the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)—the old 77th (East Middlesex) Regiment, of Peninsular and Crimean fame—who lost their lives in the war in South Africa.

“And what can be said of them more than what I know the dear, good fellows would like me, the old Colonel, above all, to say of them—for being dead they yet speak—that they nobly did their duty, that they died a soldier's death, the most honourable of all deaths; that they died for their Queen and King and country and regiment; that they died for the honour and glory of old England; that they died that this proud nation should not perish in South Africa, but that Boer and Briton should live together as friends and not enemies under one Sovereign, one Empire, one Flag, the glorious Flag of old England, the emblem of all that is lovely and of good report. The history of the

THE TEXAS WAR
MEMOIR IN THE CRUISE,
PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
 AND IN MEMORY OF
 THE FOLLOWING 6 OFFICERS
 AND 107 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN
 WHO LOST THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING WITH
 THE 2ND BATTALION DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN (MIDDLESEX REG'T)
 IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR 1899-1902.

CAPT. C. L. MURIEL
 LIEUT. F. GALBRAITH
 " BAW. C. MOELLER
 2ND LIEUT. W. G. H. LAWLEY
 " H. ACWILSON
 QMRS & HON. LIEUT.
 T. PIPER
 COL. SERGT. R. CONNOLLY
 8TH SERGT. W. E. HOWARD
 SERGT. A. E. FOSTER

" W. GREGORY
 " G. HUDSON
 " J. MURPHY
 CORP. H. ARNOLD
 " A. E. ASHBY
 " A. BAILEY
 " W. BAKER
 " H. CAKEBREAD
 " E. LANGRIDGE
 " A. LONGHURST
 " E. MAYCOCK
 " H. MONTAGUE
 H. PAYNE.
 1ST CORP. J. DUNN
 " W. MALLETT
 " W. THOMPSON
 " R. WATSON

PTE. W. ADAMS
 " F. ANCELONI
 " F. ANSELL
 " A. ARMSTRONG
 " J. ARNOLD
 " A. BAKER
 " J. BANKS

PTE. A. BARNARD
 " W. BLAZIER
 " W. BROWN
 " J. J. BURGESS
 " F. CAREY
 " W. CHAMPNESS
 " G. CHARTER
 " E. CLELAND
 " A. DAVIS
 " W. DEMPSEY
 " W. H. DOE
 " T. EGELTON
 " J. ELLICOCK
 " C. FOREMAN
 " W. FURLONG
 " G. GARDINER
 " J. GAWN
 " A. GAYLOR
 " T. GIBLING
 " W. GODFREY
 " R. GRAINGER
 " J. GREEN
 " F. GRIFFITHS

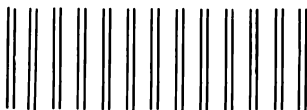
PTE. J. HARDING
 " J. HARMS
 " A. HARRIS
 " W. HAYES
 " J. HIGGINS
 " D. HOLLAND
 " F. HOWE
 " H. HUCKER
 " W. HUDSON
 " A. JACKSON
 " W. JAMES
 " W. JOHNSTON
 " W. JORDAN
 " J. KELLY
 " D. LANE
 " A. LEVITT
 " H. LONC
 " E. LUKEY
 " A. MARKWICK
 " J. MASSON
 " J. M'CAULEY
 " W. M'MANUS
 " H. MILLER

PTE. F. MOKRALL
 " H. MULVEY
 " C. NASH
 " T. W. NASH
 " W. PAINTER
 " J. A. PIKEMAN
 " J. POLLICUTT
 " W. POULTON
 " W. PURSEY
 " W. RENARDSON
 " W. H. RIDGE
 " J. J. RILEY
 " A. ROBINSON
 " A. ROSSER
 " W. SCOTT
 " T. SHORTER
 " C. SMITH
 " G. SMITH
 " H. SMITH
 " J. SMITH
 " J. SMITH
 " H. SPARROW
 " A. SPOONER
 " J. STACK
 " W. STEVENS
 " C. STONE
 " H. STROUD
 " J. TAYLOR
 " F. J. TIPTON
 " J. TORRENCE
 " A. WILLIAMS
 " T. WILSON
 " H. WRIGHT
 " W. YEWER

I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT: I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE.

3 1111 V 7

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR . .
 MEMORIAL IN THE CRYPT,
 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. .



war is there to show that the share taken by the 2nd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment at Spion Kop, at the Relief of Ladysmith, and in all the subsequent actions of the war, was no inglorious one. What man could do was done by these brave, steady men right fearlessly and well ; and the good work that they did in South Africa lives after them, and a grateful and patriotic country will not willingly let the memory of it die.

“ I have now to ask the Dean and Chapter to be good enough to accept and take charge of this memorial, which records the names of six officers and 107 non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) who lost their lives in the South African War, a grievous loss to us, and I would most gratefully thank the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral for permitting us to place it on the sacred walls of this historic Crypt, hallowed by the dust of Nelson, and Wellington, and Picton, who was our Colonel, the Colonel of the 77th (East Middlesex) Regiment, when he foremost fighting fell at Waterloo, that tremendous battle, that battle of giants, which gave peace to distracted Europe for nearly 40 years.”

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